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FOURTEENTH

R E P O R T

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
14 March 1838.*

[*Price 6d.*]

Lunæ, 27^o die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, THAT the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members :

Lord John Russell.	Mr. Ward.
Mr. Fazakerley.	Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Richard Walker.	Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.	Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Baines.	Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Bolling.	Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Lister.	Mr. Chichester.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.	Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Barneby.	Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. Liddell.	Mr. John Fielden
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).	

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8^o die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, THAT power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

[illegible]

R E P O R T.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the RELIEF of the POOR under the Orders and Regulations issued by the COMMISSIONERS appointed under the Provisions of the POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT; and who were empowered to report the MINUTES of EVIDENCE taken before them from time to time to THE HOUSE;—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

14 *March* 1838.

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10/11/19

W I T N E S S E S.

James Phillips Kay, Esq., M. D., - - - p. 1
William Richard Dickins - - - - p. 31

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Martis, 13^o die Martii, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Estcourt.
Mr. Fielden.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. Hodges.

Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Miles.
Lord J. Russell.
Mr. Scrope.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Wakley.

MR. FAZAKERLEY IN THE CHAIR.

James Phillips Kay, Esq., M.D., called in ; and Examined.

4385. *Chairman.*] YOU are an Assistant Poor Law Commissioner?—I am.

4386. How long have you acted in that capacity?—Since July 1835.

4387. What is the district which you have now under your superintendence?—Norfolk and Suffolk.

4388. How long have you been there?—I went into Suffolk in August 1835 ; and I succeeded Sir Edward Parry, in Norfolk, at the end of February 1836.

4389. Then you have had the superintendence of the district for about two years?—I have.

4390. Have you paid great attention to the education of children who may be placed in the workhouses of the different unions?—As early as the claims of other duties connected with the formation of unions, the building of workhouses, and the general administration of relief, would permit me to abstract my attention from such duties, I made it a matter of primary importance to observe what was the nature of the education given to the children who were more permanently maintained in the work-houses. I found great deficiencies in the arrangements that had been adopted by the different boards of guardians, principally in consequence of other duties which they had to perform ; and I applied myself to improve the discipline of the schools.

4391. What is the population of the unions that you superintend?—I think the entire population of the district may be 580,000 ; but I do not speak with absolute certainty ; the population of the unions which are now in operation, and have efficient workhouses, is about 540,000.

4392. In those unions do you know the number of children that are in the workhouses, or that were in the workhouses in any particular period that you can speak to?—In the month of December 1837 the number of children that were in the workhouses of 35 unions, in which the workhouse arrangements were then completed, was 483 boys between nine and sixteen ; 420 girls between nine and sixteen ; 547 boys between two and nine ; and 456 girls between two and nine ; making 1,906 children between two and sixteen, who were at that time maintained and educated in 35 union workhouses in Norfolk and Suffolk.

4393. Can you describe those children so as to inform the Committee to what classes they belonged ; whether they were bastard or orphan children, or children of able-bodied labourers?—I thought it very important to ascertain how many of those children were likely to be more permanently maintained in the workhouses ; because it is evident that the residence of an able-bodied labourer in the work-house is transient, and that the education provided for his child is not by any means a matter of such great importance as the education of the children who were more permanently maintained in the workhouse ; and with a view to obtain accurate

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information upon this subject, I issued a circular on the 9th of December 1837, to the masters of workhouses, requesting that they would return to me the number of bastards, orphans, children deserted by their fathers, children deserted by father and mother, children of men undergoing punishment for crime, children of persons depending upon parochial aid on account of mental or bodily infirmity, children of able-bodied widows resident in the union workhouses, children of able-bodied widowers resident in the union workhouses, and children belonging to large families of able-bodied labourers, admitted into the workhouses as a relief to their parents—those being the classes which it was probable would be more permanently resident than the children of able-bodied labourers. I found the numbers in that week to be 443 bastards, 382 orphans, 279 children deserted by their fathers, 54 children deserted by father and mother, 171 children of men undergoing punishment for crime, 116 children of persons dependent upon parochial aid on account of mental or bodily infirmity, 144 children of able-bodied widows resident in the workhouses, 36 children of able-bodied widowers resident in the workhouses, and 122 children belonging to large families of able-bodied labourers, admitted into the workhouses as a relief to their parents; making a total of 1,847 children in 35 unions, who might be expected to be more permanently maintained in the workhouses than the children of able-bodied labourers.

4394. Of what ages were the children?—Of all ages between two and sixteen; besides those there were 259 infants too young for instruction, and about 60 children of able-bodied parents, who were resident in the workhouse at that time. If the Committee desire it, I will give in the table.

[*The Witness delivered in the same.—Vide Appendix (A.)*]

4395. With respect to the 122 whom you describe as the children of the able-bodied, their parents were not resident in the workhouse?—They were not.

4396. The children were taken into the workhouse as a relief to the able-bodied labourers?—They were, during a certain period of transition. In Norfolk and Suffolk, we first permitted the out-door allowances to large families of labourers to continue; and, as another step of advance, we have adopted the system of taking in certain children from large families of labourers, intending that to be employed as an expedient of more easily getting over a certain state of transition, until we could adopt the absolute rule of relieving the labourer, by taking the whole family into the workhouse.

4397. Of those classes of children, some remain a much longer time in the workhouse than others, do they not?—Certainly. In order to ascertain the periods which those several classes of children remain in the workhouse, I issued another circular to the masters of the workhouses, requesting to be informed what number of children of both sexes, between the ages of two and sixteen, had been in the workhouse less than a fortnight. I found they were 193, in the week ending the 3d of January 1838. The number who had been in more than a fortnight, and less than a month, were 223; the number that had been in one month, and less than three, were 548; the number that had been in three months, and less than six, were 307; the number more than six months, and less than a year, 275; the number more than a year 474; but I must be permitted to remark in explanation of this table, that it cannot be supposed to indicate what would occur after the unions have been in operation for a series of years, because to various of those classes of children the workhouse had only been recently offered as a means of relief, and they had entered the workhouse only during the last summer; the number of children who had been maintained in the workhouses previously to last summer has been very considerably less; and as the boards of guardians gradually advanced in their application of the workhouse test to various classes of paupers, such classes as bastards, and orphans, and others, were admitted who had been previously in the receipt of out-door relief, so that I apprehend, after a certain period has elapsed, it will be found that the children described in these tables would remain much longer in the workhouse than is indicated in the table which I now present to the Committee.

[*The Witness delivered in the same.—Vide Appendix (B.)*]

4398. There are 474 in that table who have been in the workhouse more than a year; to what class of children do they belong?—I have no doubt that they were

were bastards, or orphans, or children deserted by their parents, or children of persons dependent on parochial aid on account of bodily or mental infirmity.

4399. Children who have been deserted by their parents, or orphans, or bastards, would be likely to continue to be dependent upon the parish for their maintenance, and to remain in the workhouse until such a period as they were able to gain their livelihood out of doors?—Certainly; it appears to me that in all cases in which children are deprived of the guardianship of their parents by physical or legal disabilities, or by death, they must continue dependent on the parish till they are enabled, by their own exertions, to obtain their own livelihood.

4400. At what period should you say, that generally they might be sent out from the workhouse and be able to earn their own livelihood?—In the case of girls, I think, from the age of 14 to 16 they would be admitted into domestic service; and the boys from 14 to 16 into farming occupations, or as servants in various branches of trade, and would find employment and wages sufficient to maintain them.

4401. Would children in those cases, who had no parents and no home, be able to maintain themselves by independent employment so soon as the children who have a home, and who might, by degrees, acquire the habit of employing themselves in different branches of industry?—That would especially occur if there were no expedient in the workhouse for the industrial training of the children; and I may be permitted to explain in what respect I conceive the condition of the child who is maintained and educated in the workhouse would differ from the child of an independent labourer, provided no expedient were adopted for teaching him such trades as would enable him to provide an independent livelihood. A child out of doors, a boy, is initiated into the various occupations of industry; he accompanies his father to the field, and performs a great variety of work, and so, by degrees, he takes his station in the employment of the district. A girl, in the same way, acquires a knowledge of domestic economy; and it is plain, that unless some expedients were adopted within the union workhouses, not merely to give the children skill (in the case of girls in domestic occupations, and in the case of boys in various trades and employments, which are connected with their probable destiny in life), they would, in the first place, not have the habits of industry, and, in the second place, they would not have the skill which would recommend them to employment and enable them to earn their livelihood.

4402. In order to enable those children to earn their livelihood, and to fit them for occupying the different stations of life to which they may be called, whether boys or girls, do you think it desirable that some general and good scheme of education should be introduced into the workhouses?—Certainly I do; and I think that the workhouse schools, as they are at present managed, present many formidable difficulties for conducting the religious education, the moral and the industrial training of the children, and the impartation of a sufficient amount of secular knowledge, suitable to their station in life, which might be overcome, probably, by other and better arrangements than those which at present exist in the workhouses.

4403. Are you acquainted with what was the system of education, or whether there was any system, in the old parish poor-houses or workhouses before this new law was introduced?—The parish poor-houses were, for the most part (and I think that the exceptions were so rare that they may scarcely be accounted to have existed), scenes of the utmost iniquity and disorder; the children, infants as well as those of more advanced age, adult paupers, often of the very worst character, dissolute women, and the aged and infirm, were all in the same apartment, in the parochial workhouses; there was no workhouse dress; they were living there generally in filth and idleness, the children contracting the habits of paupers—being contaminated with the vicious dispositions of the persons with whom they came in contact. There was no schoolmaster at all, and I think the inevitable consequence of a child being trained in such a situation was, that he must become, for a time, and probably for a very long period of his life, dependent upon the rate-payers. When we have emptied the parochial workhouses, and brought the children and other paupers to the union workhouses, we have generally found that the children were infested with vermin, often covered with the itch; and very recently it occurred to me to inquire from one of the Scotch teachers, who has been introduced into Norfolk, in what condition some of the children who had been brought from the parochial workhouse to the union

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workhouse were found, and he told me language could not describe his astonishment at the brutish ignorance of the children, and at their vicious and disorderly manners; he said the only knowledge they had was how to pull up twitch grass, and how to top and tail turnips; but that beyond that they had not a single idea; and no child in the school knew his letters.

4404. They had, in fact, received no sort of education, whether in letters or a general training in habits of industry?—Certainly.

4405. What is the state of things in the schools which have been established in the workhouses?—I must first inform the Committee, that we have encountered very formidable difficulties in attempting to improve the workhouse schools; it has been found extremely difficult to procure eligible teachers; applications have been made to some of the London schools, for example, the Central National School at Westminster, and other schools, and very great difficulty indeed has been experienced in procuring teachers from those schools; so that, in the first instance, in many of the workhouses we have been obliged to be content, for a time, with the services of provincial teachers; we have endeavoured to give them a larger amount of skill, by sending them, especially, to the industrial schools in the neighbourhood of London; I refer to the schools of the Children's Friend Society at Hackney-Wick, where boys are instructed, and at Chiswick, where girls are taught industrial occupations, or to the school of Lady Noel Byron at Ealing, where similar pursuits are followed; and also peculiar care has been bestowed upon one or two of the schools in Suffolk, with a view to render them model schools, in which the schoolmasters of other workhouses might receive instruction, particularly in the industrial processes that are employed, and so, by degrees, even with the assistance of the provincial teachers, many of the schools have been improved; but, I felt that as the greater part of those teachers have not had a sufficiently long training in any of the more correct methods of instruction which are pursued in the model schools, that it was very desirable to introduce into the district some teachers who had received a complete training in schools, the success of which was acknowledged, and for that purpose one of my colleagues, Mr. Tufnell, and myself, visited Scotland last summer, for the purpose of becoming acquainted with the methods of instruction that are pursued in the sessional schools of the Church of Scotland, in Edinburgh, and the Glasgow Normal Seminary, which is also conducted under the sanction of the Church of Scotland; since that period six teachers have been engaged for different unions in Norfolk and Suffolk, and three have been employed in organizing the different schools throughout the country, so that many of the schools are certainly very superior to those which I was acquainted with in the incorporations.

4406. In those schools what have you been able to do, with respect to training the children in habits of industry?—As education is chiefly to be regarded by the Poor Law Commissioners as the means of avoiding the ultimate dependence upon the rate-payers of the children, great attention has been paid to the industrial training of the children; I could not select a better example of what is done in the industrial training of children, than is afforded by the school in Barham workhouse, in Suffolk, belonging to the Bosmere and Claydon Union; the girls in that union workhouse are instructed, not merely in knitting and sewing, which is the common industrial instruction of schools, but they are also taught to cut out the clothes of the paupers in the workhouse; they scour their rooms and make their beds; they wash their own linen and the boys', iron it and make it up; and the board of guardians are about to make arrangements to have the whole cooking of the establishment conducted by the girls, under the superintendence of a reputable and discreet female in the kitchen; and those employments of the girls are now becoming common in the workhouse schools throughout my district; the boys have also been engaged in breaking up a piece of ground outside the workhouse, which is, as soon as it is prepared, to be allotted to them in gardens, which they daily cultivate, whenever the weather will permit, for two or three hours; the master is provided with books on gardening (the schoolmistress is to be provided with books on frugal cookery), and it will be his duty to instruct the boys in gardening, as a branch of industry more allied to industry than any thing that we can well select connected with workhouse discipline; the boys have also been employed in making and mending the clothes of the workhouse, in making the shoes of the workhouse, in rough carpentering work, for they have made the barrows which they use in their gardening; they have also been employed in basket-making, mat-making, platting straw hats, and other

other occupations of a similar kind, which have a two-fold object, one to give them skill in such a branch of industry as may enable them to obtain employment, and to support themselves by their own exertions in after life, and the other for the purpose of enabling them, without the expenditure of their earnings, to contribute to the comfort of their own households simply by their skill, as, for example, in doing any rough wood-work about their cottage, putting up a shelf or making a box, or such other things as those.

4407. In those respects you probably have made a great advance in education, as compared with the system which prevailed in the former poor-houses and work-houses?—I do not know any single workhouses of the incorporations in which any thing was done beyond teaching the children to weave sacking, to spin thread or worsted, or some occupation of that kind, which was more suited to a manufacturing district; but nothing has been done, so far as I can perceive, in the old work-houses, to train the children in labour connected with the pursuits of husbandry.

4408. This system of education, which you say you have succeeded in introducing in some of the unions under your superintendence, appears to meet nearly all the objects which one would propose to oneself in educating children so circumstanced; still you say in the workhouses you met with impediments which would prevent your accomplishing the system of education which you think the best; be so good as to describe the nature of the impediments?—Those impediments are encountered in a very great degree in the other departments of the education which is given to the children, in the religious instruction, the moral training, and in the discipline of the school, and in the methods that are pursued in giving them secular knowledge suited to their station in life. In all those forms of instruction we find great difficulties arising, first, from the want of a sufficient number of children in each workhouse to provide the classification that is necessary to success in a school. Then, secondly, it is very difficult, in the best regulated workhouse, to prevent a certain amount of association between the children and the adult paupers, many of whom are not persons whom it would be desirable to place as models for the imitation of children. There is a good deal of interruption to the discipline of a school, also, from the admission of children belonging to able-bodied labourers, whose residence in the house is commonly very transient. I think also that educating children in a workhouse, and not in a school separately from the workhouse, is objectionable, on this ground, that the child comes, by association with what is occurring within the workhouse, to deem itself in some sort a pauper, and as the child's dependence upon the rate-payers is in no respect a consequence of its improvidence, or of any other circumstance which usually produces the dependence of paupers, it appears to me that it should not encounter any risk of losing its self-respect, which will probably be one of the surest guarantees for independence of character in after life. There is also a very great difficulty in the workhouse schools, as at present conducted, in supplying a sufficient number of well-qualified teachers, and in inducing them, from the present amount of remuneration that can be given in the unions, to reside in the workhouse, to conform to all the discipline, and to disregard the opportunities which are afforded them of bettering their condition by becoming schoolmasters in some other departments out of the workhouse. All these difficulties, I think, will be found to present formidable obstacles to the success of schools as at present conducted in the union workhouses.

4409. Is there not some difficulty also in providing sufficient space for the children, whether for their occupation within doors or without doors?—To most of the workhouses in Norfolk and Suffolk we have attached a certain portion of land; the children are out in the garden during three or four hours daily; that difficulty might, I think, generally be obviated, because I never found any reluctance in any board of guardians to do whatever was necessary with reference to the industrial training of the children; I should much rather that the treatment of the children was different from that which it necessarily is at present in connexion with the ordinary discipline of the workhouse, and I should very much rather that they lived in a school than that they lived in a workhouse.

4410. Finding that the arrangements within the workhouse cannot be made in a manner that is perfectly satisfactory, what would you propose as the best mode in which those children should be provided for and educated?—I think if the unions were combined for the purpose of supporting county schools, that a much more efficient system of instruction and training might be adopted in those county schools, and at considerably less expense to the unions than the instruction which

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is now given in the workhouse is maintained; for in connexion with that subject, I made some calculations, founded upon the experience which I had of what has been done in the workhouse schools in Norfolk and Suffolk, which, with the permission of the Committee, I will state: I found that it was almost impossible to obtain a *skilful* schoolmaster and schoolmistress for a lower salary than 35*l.* or 40*l.* for a schoolmaster, and 20*l.* for a schoolmistress, besides their maintenance, and the provision of a separate apartment in the workhouse, and the furniture for that apartment. When the whole arrangements in Norfolk and Suffolk are completed, there will be 39 unions, and the cost of the salaries for the schoolmasters and schoolmistresses in the workhouses of those unions would be, for 39 schoolmasters, at 35*l.* per annum, 1,365*l.*; for 39 schoolmistresses, at 20*l.* per annum, 780*l.*; for the maintenance of the schoolmasters, 608*l.* 8*s.*; for the maintenance of the schoolmistresses, 608*l.* 8*s.*, giving a total of 3,361*l.* 16*s.*; besides some outlay which must be encountered for either the wages or the maintenance of shoemakers and tailors, who are employed in assisting the schoolmasters, and are either maintained in the workhouse upon the ordinary rations, at the cost of 7*l.* 16*s.* per annum, or would receive wages to a larger amount; besides those expenses, there must be a very considerable outlay in each school for Bibles, Testaments, lesson-books, apparatus for gardening and various other tools, and for fitting up a separate wash-house and laundry for the girls, and for fitting up the schoolmasters' and schoolmistresses' apartments, which outlay I calculate would amount to about 4,700*l.* more for the fitting up of the several schools. If in Norfolk and Suffolk, four county schools were provided and much larger salaries were given, and a more expensive maintenance also permitted to the schoolmasters and schoolmistresses, the following scale of salaries would provide a clear saving of 2,000*l.* a year in the expenditure of the unions of those two counties; namely, four schools containing 400 or 500 children each; for those four schools, four principal schoolmasters with their wives, and four principal schoolmistresses at a salary of 120*l.* per annum, making 480*l.*; the maintenance of those 208*l.* per annum, the very highest amount that could be anticipated; four assistant schoolmasters and four assistant schoolmistresses 240*l.* per annum, the salaries being 60*l.* for a couple, the maintenance 208*l.* per annum; then supposing there were in those schools four tailors, at wages of 10*s.* per week, with their maintenance also, the expense would be 156*l.* 4*s.*; shoemakers at the same wages and maintenance, 156*l.* 4*s.*; laundresses at the same wages and maintenance, 112*l.*, making a total of 1,560*l.*; I suppose also that there would be four chaplains with 60*l.* per annum each, 240*l.*; making 1800*l.* as the total annual expense for the salaries and maintenance of schoolmasters and schoolmistresses in the four county schools, which would be a saving of 2,000*l.* per annum.

4411. Which saving would go towards any expense that might be incurred by building and fitting up those four county schools which you would propose? —Yes.

4412. It being your opinion, that a very good system of education cannot be contrived or permanently carried on in the existing workhouses, and proposing as you do, the substitution of county schools, what is the character of education which you would provide for the children?—I think that great attention ought to be paid to the religious instruction, to the moral training, of the children; that they ought to be carefully trained in industry, in the manner which I have attempted to describe, and that, as they are cut off from the ordinary sources of secular knowledge which are open to the labourer's child, there should be more attention paid to the means of giving them secular knowledge suited to their station in life than is commonly given in the parochial schools of the country.

4413. Have you examined any schools carried on upon the system which you approve of, and which have been tried for some time, so as to enable you to speak from experience whether any of the effects which you think desirable have been in any degree produced?—Certainly I have, both in Scotland and in this country, and particularly there are certain industrial schools in the neighbourhood of London, which seem to me to be peculiarly worthy of observation and imitation in the parochial unions throughout the country; I refer especially to the schools of the Children's Friend Society, in which deserted children and juvenile offenders from the streets of London are trained, in industry especially, in order that they may afterwards be apprenticed in the colonies; and not only the reports of that society and my communications with some of its most intelligent members, but personal observations in the schools, lead me to believe that a system of instruction

tion similar to that pursued in the schools of the Children's Friend Society would be exceedingly important in the county schools which I propose should be provided for the orphan, deserted and other children who are more permanently maintained in the workhouses.

4414. Where is the school of the Children's Friend Society conducted?—There is one school at Hackney-Wick for boys, and another at Chiswick for girls, under the patronage of the Queen and the Duchess of Kent.

4415. What effect, in your opinion, upon pauperism, which is the peculiar object of our inquiry, would this sort of education be likely to have?—I cannot conceive that the children, if they were carefully trained, morally and religiously, and had the means afforded them of acquiring skill in trades and habits of industry, would to any great extent be dependent upon the rate-payers, especially under the system in which the law is now administered in the country.

4416. You think that the religious and moral feelings which would be implanted by this education, and the habits of industry and the acquaintance with different occupations which they would be likely to acquire, would give them a better chance of providing for themselves as independent members of the community than if they were not educated at all, or educated in the same imperfect manner as heretofore?—Certainly; I may be permitted also to observe, that if this training in industry were not provided in the workhouse, it must, of necessity, be provided out of the workhouse, at the cost of the rate-payers; and I conceive that the necessity for adopting the system of apprenticeship which led to so many pernicious consequences arose out of the absence of a proper plan of industrial training in the workhouses of the old incorporations and in the parochial workhouses; I find that if the same number of children were supported in other districts, in proportion to the population, as are supported in workhouses in Norfolk and Suffolk, that there would be 46,125 children between the ages of two and sixteen in the workhouses of England and Wales, and 44,697 children between the ages of two and sixteen who belong to the classes who are more permanently maintained in workhouses, as described in the table presented to the Committee. If only one-tenth of those persons, from any defect in their education, with families of the ordinary size, become for six months in the year only, dependent upon the rate-payers, an annual outlay of 104,000*l.* would be encountered; and if the ordinary system of apprenticeship which had been previously adopted in the old incorporations and in the parishes were again resorted to, it appears to me quite reasonable to suppose that out of 1,847 children who are now maintained in the workhouses of Norfolk and Suffolk more permanently, at least 180 must be apprenticed every year, by which an expense of 1,800*l.* in apprentice fees would be encountered in the workhouses in Norfolk and Suffolk; and if the same proportions obtained in other districts of England and Wales, that 4,356 children would have to be apprenticed annually at an annual expense of 10*l.* each, or a total annual expense of 43,556*l.* in England and Wales, for the apprenticeship of children; all of which expense, besides the saving in the plan of management at present pursued in the workhouse schools, might, I think, be entirely avoided, by pursuing a proper system of religious, moral and industrial training in schools properly maintained for that purpose.

4417. Do you think that the effect of giving this education to children would be to enable them to get out into service, and to obtain occupations very much more easily than they otherwise would do?—Whenever there is a skilful and attentive master or mistress of the workhouse, the success which we have already obtained in the management of the workhouse schools enables him to procure situations, particularly for the girls, in domestic service, without premiums in money, perhaps, beyond the outfit of clothes, with an orphan girl; or in case of a boy being put out for husbandry, the outfit of the clothes for the orphan boy.

4418. In case the children were not in that manner prepared for domestic service or out-door occupation, would it not be necessary, in order to ease the parish from the growing incumbrance, to have recourse to a system of apprenticeship?—I can present the Committee with a table, showing what was done in one of the best-managed incorporations of Suffolk, in which out-door relief has never been administered, to any great extent, for a long series of years past, and in which almost the only evil has been the extent to which the apprentice system has been pursued. It has been the custom in that incorporation, to apprentice, not merely the orphan and bastard children, but children of able-bodied widows and able-bodied men who were in employment; and I have here a table, which I should

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desire to put in, showing that the chief expenses in that incorporation were encountered by a number of the children of able-bodied men, who had to be apprenticed, being admitted into the workhouse, as a relief to their parents. The table shows that the training which was pursued in the workhouse was not sufficient to procure the cessation of the dependence of those children upon the rate-payers without giving a premium, which was, on the average, 10*l.*; and in some years nearly 1,000*l.* has been expended in one year in this incorporation, containing 11,000 inhabitants, solely for the apprenticeship of children; the average expense for the last 10 years having been 330*l.* or 340*l.* a year. The table describes the number of children of able-bodied men admitted, discharged, apprenticed, placed in service, and who died, in each year in this incorporation; the same facts for the children of able-bodied widows, the children whose parents were disabled, orphans, for deserted children, for children of convicts and the children of lunatics and idiots, for every year since 1830 and 1831 up to the present period.

[*The Witness delivered in the same.*—*Vide Appendix (C.)*]

4419. Independently of the obvious expense of apprenticeship, in giving fees, what, in your opinion, are its moral effects upon the character of the apprentice, and of the receiver of the apprentice?—I must distinguish between an apprenticeship to trades, and an apprenticeship to husbandry. In the apprenticeship to trades, it occurred under the old system that the premium chiefly formed an inducement to persons of narrow means, to whom the premium itself was exceedingly desirable as a means of escape from some temporary pressure, and who took the children without any great need of their services, or without the parish having any great regard to the means which those persons enjoyed of promoting the welfare of the children, by carefully training them in a trade, and thus procuring the cessation of their dependence upon the rate-payers, so that a very large proportion of the children became dependent upon the parish to which they were apprenticed. One of the most prominent evils of the system, and which led to a large amount of chicanery in practice, was, that their dependence upon the parish to which they had previously belonged, ceased by their obtaining a new settlement. With respect to the apprenticeship to husbandry, many of the evils which were encountered in the apprenticeships to trades, were encountered; but others were avoided in Norfolk and Suffolk to a very large extent: this apprenticeship was compulsory; the occupiers received an apprentice unwillingly; and the apprentice went unwillingly to the master; and it must be quite evident that no good service or good instruction could be obtained under such circumstances. In other cases where the apprenticeship was not compulsory, the very circumstance that the child was bound to the master, and the master bound to perform certain duties to the child, rendered the natural obligations of duty between master and servant of less force; and the child gave imperfect service to the master, and the master imperfect instruction to the child; so that the real objects which ought to have been sought to be obtained by the apprenticeship of the child, were almost altogether lost, and a great amount of evil was occasioned by the system.

4420. You think, therefore, that it would be a great object to do away with the necessity of compulsory apprenticeship, and to enable those children, by proper training and education, to have a good chance of providing for themselves?—I believe that if a proper system of training were adopted, upon the plan submitted to the Committee, or any other good plan, the necessity for apprenticing would be altogether obviated.

4421. If in any particular instance you should succeed in introducing a tolerably good system of education in particular workhouses, have you any security for that system being permanent?—I must say, with great regret, that I fear, without the greatest personal exertion on the part of the Assistant-commissioners and some of the most intelligent members of the board of guardians, that there is no existing security for the maintenance of the improvements which have been obtained in many of the workhouse schools; and I greatly fear, unless the system were concentrated into county schools, where the opportunities for observation and control would be much more frequent than they can be in the present workhouse schools, that they must relapse to a very inefficient and unsatisfactory state again.

4422. Is it not true, that in workhouses there are so many circumstances to which the attention of the Assistant-commissioner or the guardians, or any visiting committee that may be appointed, is directed, that there is some fear of the particular

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ticular object of the education of the children being only cursorily inquired into?—The visiting committees do pay very considerable attention to the subject, but they have so much besides, of pressing and urgent importance, which demands a large portion of their time, besides also absorbing a great deal of their attention, and requiring an immediate exercise of their judgment, that the schools, which appear to me to be one of the most important parts of the workhouse, inasmuch as by efficient management of the schools we may hope to diminish the amount of what may be termed hereditary pauperism, have not and cannot obtain all the attention which they deserve.

4423. In those county schools which you would propose to establish, education would be the only object to which attention would be directed?—Certainly.

4424. And you think, therefore, that there is reason to suppose, that by confining the attention either of the Assistant-commissioner or any visiting body that might be fixed upon, to that particular object, there would be a greater security for that duty being well executed?—Certainly.

4425. How would you propose to establish those county schools?—I think that 10 or 12 unions might be united together for the purpose of maintaining a common school, and that a board of management might be formed, by electing for that purpose certain of the guardians who are most likely to pay attention to duties of that kind, and who should meet, from month to month, at the school, from the various unions in that district. It would appear to me sufficient that the masters of the workhouses should visit the schools at the ordinary monthly meeting, and should bring those children, whom they were directed to bring by the board of guardians, for maintenance and instruction in the county school.

4426. How would you propose to divide the expense?—I think that is a subject which is perhaps deserving of more consideration than I have given it; two plans have been proposed to me, one that the expense should be made entirely proportionate to the number of children instructed in the county school belonging to the union, and the other, that it should have relation to the averages of the union; it is quite plain that the maintenance and clothing of the children must be made a charge similar to the present in-maintenance charge; the only question that remains is, whether the salaries and general expenses of the establishment should be distributed according to the averages, or whether they should be made an in-maintenance charge, similar to that which at present exists in the ordinary workhouses.

4427. *Mr. Hodges.*] Are the county schools which you contemplate to be separate establishments or large buildings attached to existing union workhouses?—I would have them separate establishments.

4428. Are you, then, quite confident that the saving you speak of would be effective?—I think it would, because in Norfolk and in Suffolk, and in other parts, there are buildings suited to the purpose, which, though they would not be efficient as workhouses, would, with some improvement, be perfectly efficient as schools.

4429. *Chairman.*] How would you propose to provide for religious instruction?—The Commissioners' regulations submit the religious instruction of the children chiefly to the superintendence of the chaplain, who is by their regulations provided in each workhouse. The chaplain is required to report to the board of guardians the moral and religious state of the inmates generally every week, in a book provided for that purpose, and also to examine and catechise the children, which is done practically weekly, and to state the progress which they have made. The schoolmasters submit themselves, in the religious instruction of the children, very fully to the directions of the chaplain, provision of course being made, under the 19th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act, for the relief of the conscientious scruples of Dissenters, who may desire that their own spiritual guides should conduct the religious instruction of their children.

4430. In the event of there being Protestant Dissenters or Roman Catholics in any considerable numbers in those schools, does it occur to you that there would be any difficulty in conducting the religious education under the superintendence of chaplains of the Church of England?—The cases which have come under my attention have not been very numerous in which application has been made for the separate religious education of children maintained in the workhouse; and I cannot conceive that any great difficulty can arise, while the numbers of children of Dissenters continue small, because it is quite plain that the 19th section of the Poor

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Law Amendment Act gives the godfather or the godmother of the child, in the case of an orphan child, or the father or mother, in the case of a child having parents living, an opportunity to object to any portion of the religious instruction that is given in the workhouse, so that the child might be separated from the rest of the children during the period when religious instruction was given. I think, provided there was any suspicion on the part of the parent, that the religious instruction given was intended in any degree to influence the religious belief, and to convey the essential doctrines of Christianity, and that parent objected, that the 19th section would give him an opportunity of separating his child from the religious instruction so conveyed, and to provide for the religious instruction by a teacher of his own sect?

4431. And in that way you think the objection might be obviated?—I do; I confine myself at present to my own district.

4432. You have not experienced any difficulty upon that point?—I have not.

4433. Mr. *Freshfield*.] You stated that the adult paupers are not such as to be fit models for the children; you mean that you think their association prejudicial to the children?—It must be quite plain to the Committee, that when the workhouse is offered to a class of labourers, or a class of persons who are applicants for relief, that the most reputable and the most skilful will obtain employment, and the least reputable and the least skilful will be the persons who will come into the workhouse.

4434. It is then in your view essential that the separation should be effectual between the children and the adult paupers?—Certainly; though no objection is made to the parents seeing their children during any part of the day, and they constantly meet them at dinner and supper.

4435. In the best-conducted workhouses, where the girls are taught household work, are the laundresses selected from the adult paupers?—If the laundress is selected from the paupers, great attention is paid to her character; a discreet and reputable female is selected, but it would be exceedingly important, and that would be adopted in the county school if that arrangement were thought desirable, that the laundress should not be a pauper, and that no person who came in contact with the children whilst they were under instruction should be or ever have been a pauper.

4436. Do you think it would be objected, that in those county schools the children were entirely separated from their parents?—I do not propose that any considerable number of children who have parents in the workhouse should be sent to county schools; and upon reference to the table which I have given in, it will be found that the great majority are bastard children, or children deserted by their parents, and that the number of children of able-bodied widows or of able-bodied men is very small. I cannot consider that a temporary separation, for the permanent advantage of the children, similar to that which occurs in all ranks, would be felt to be a grievance when connected with that great advantage.

4437. Does it occur to you that the sort of training which you propose to give in county schools, would operate rather hardly upon the children of the adult labourers, who were striving hard to maintain their families without receiving parochial relief?—I think the first thing we have to look to is the obvious duty of the boards of guardians and Poor Law Commissioners with regard to the education of these children; and if it should be found that society has generally neglected the instruction of the children of the working classes, I do not think that that argument can be proposed to the board of guardians or the Commissioners as a reason for neglecting the education of the children in the workhouses.

4438. What would be the probable effect generally upon any neighbourhood in which this system was adopted in the workhouses?—I have already some practical experience of the effect of the improvements made in the workhouse schools, both in Norfolk and Suffolk; I have found that the books introduced into those schools have been introduced into the parochial schools, that the teachers of the parochial schools have been sent to the workhouse schools to obtain an acquaintance with the system of instruction pursued there, and that the existence of such a superior school in any neighbourhood has a considerable effect in stimulating the exertions of individuals who have been paying attention to the education of the poorer classes, and of introducing improvements into the schools of that neighbourhood. I think that the county schools would have a much more important operation, for they would evidently be excellent places

places for the instruction of teachers, by which a body of teachers for all the parochial schools of the county might be provided, at very little or no additional expense to the rate-payers of that county.

4439. Mr. *Liddell*.] If those county schools were established, would you contemplate the admission to them of children of all classes who might be disposed to send their children?—The first consideration for the board of guardians would be, whether the child was necessarily dependent upon the rate-payers; if they determined to relieve the indigence of that child they would take care to grant relief in such a way as to procure for the rate-payers the largest amount of security that its indigence should permanently cease; and I do not conceive that there would be any additional facilities granted for the admission of the child than now exist, as granted by the board of guardians, though as far as the question of receiving the children of independent labourers out of the workhouse into those schools is concerned, if proper arrangements were adopted for that purpose, I see no objection.

4440. Then you contemplate those county schools to be entirely out of the control and management of the different boards of guardians in the county?—I should propose that a board of management should be formed, elected from the boards of guardians, combined for the purpose of maintaining the schools, and that the schools should be under the management of the persons so elected; but if it were proposed that the children of independent labourers in the neighbourhood of the school should be admitted into it, I can see no objection to that, though it is quite plain that the board of guardians could have no further control over those children than their parents and guardians might desire.

4441. Then you do not contemplate those schools to be schools open to the admission of any children whatever, that their parents may send to them, independent of the board of management or of the guardians?—I see no objection to that, though I think, that whenever the child of an independent labourer is sent to a school, it is very desirable that the parent should not surrender the right of removing it, or of interfering with any portion of its instruction; and therefore, on that ground, it is exceedingly desirable that the parents of this child should make some payment, as a token of their right of interference with the training of their children.

4442. But supposing the admission to such schools to be open to the public, respectable yeomen and farmers might wish to send their children there?—I conceive that the training given to the children, especially in industry, would very much distinguish the character of the school from that to which a respectable yeoman or farmer would like to send his child; and as that would form one of the most prominent features of the school, conducted upon the principles which I have attempted to describe to the Committee, and would also exhaust the largest portion of every day, I think that in itself would be a complete distinction between the school provided for the children of the labouring classes and the school provided for the children of the yeomen of the district.

4443. The principles upon which you would desire this school to be established seem to be those upon which you would now establish schools in workhouses, only that particular difficulties occur which prevent, according to the evidence you have given, the full extent of the principles being carried out in the workhouses?—Certainly.

4444. But you would not go much beyond the education now given in workhouses in those county schools for the children of paupers?—I should not expect to have any better teachers than are in some of the workhouses in Norfolk and Suffolk, or any better instruction than now exists in some of the workhouses in Norfolk and Suffolk; but the reason why I am anxious that the county schools should be established is, that security would be provided that all the paupers' children would receive instruction, and for the permanence of the system, and for economy.

4445. And you likewise remove the children from those interferences which it is impossible to provide absolutely against, so long as they are maintained in the same workhouse with the adult paupers?—Certainly.

4446. Mr. *Estcourt*.] If there were a good school already established in the neighbourhood, should you object to the children of the workhouse being sent for instruction in the day to such a school?—Certainly not; on the contrary, if we were to have separate schools connected with each of the workhouses, I think that it would be obviously a great improvement, if a parochial school were in the neighbourhood

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neighbourhood of the workhouse, that the children of the workhouse should be sent to that school to be educated with the children of the independent labourers, provided the board of guardians could have sufficient control over the management of the school.

4447. You do not see any thing in the nature and condition of the children in the workhouse that should render you averse to allowing them to be brought up in the same school and upon the same footing as the children of independent labourers in a parochial school in the neighbourhood?—On the contrary, I see every thing desirable in the plan proposed.

4448. Mr. *Miles*.] Unless a national system of education is established, in which the independent poorer classes are all alike interested, and all alike have the power of sending their children there to receive education, would not this plan which you adopt place the pauper children very much above those of the independent labourers as to education?—I think that in regard to the industrial instruction, which is perhaps that which is most desirable in the training of a child of that class, all the advantages are still on the side of the independent labourer's child, and that in the attempt to remove the difficulties which there are in conveying proper instruction to the child, it appears to me that you cannot do justice to the pauper child if you afford only the present parochial education.

4449. *Chairman*.] In what way do you think the advantages are entirely in favour of the independent labourer's children?—Inasmuch as the instruction in industry is in more direct and close connexion with the future occupation of the child, he becomes acquainted by degrees, insensibly almost, with all the species of industry, with the arts of husbandry, and with the occupations of labourers, and he also forms relations with the farmers; he obtains a character for fidelity and skill, which enables him to procure a situation as an independent labourer; all which advantages are not at all enjoyed by the pauper child now maintained in the workhouse.

4450. Mr. *Miles*.] Are there many schools to which the independent labourers can send their children throughout Norfolk and Suffolk?—The parochial schools are not numerous, and many of them are not good; and certainly I should say that all of them are inferior to some of the schools which now exist in the workhouses; but I must refer to the answer which I gave to the question which was previously put to me, in which I stated that I do not think the argument derived from the defect of the existing system of education throughout the country can remove the cogency of the motives derived from a sense of duty on the part of the boards of guardians and the Poor Law Commissioners towards the pauper children committed to their care.

4451. Mr. *Estcourt*.] Is it not probable, in the nature of things, if an improved system of education were afforded for the pauper children, that from that circumstance the parochial schools would immediately undergo an amendment?—I have already said that I have witnessed amendments in schools in the neighbourhood of workhouses, and it would be quite impossible that the existing system of instruction for the children of the poorer classes could exist throughout the country in the neighbourhood of such schools as I propose to create.

4452. Mr. *Baines*.] Are there not considerable complaints in the manufacturing districts of the want of female servants?—Very great complaints.

4453. Do those complaints extend to agricultural districts?—Complaints of the difficulty of obtaining efficient female servants do extend to the agricultural districts, though the want of service in those districts is not felt to so great an extent as in manufacturing towns.

4454. And would not this industrial education in a certain time supply this defect?—I think there is no more obvious defect in the training of females of the lower classes than their want of knowledge of domestic economy; the houses of labourers might be rendered very much more comfortable, and more attractive, if the young females were instructed in domestic economy, particularly in frugal cookery; all which is now entirely neglected in the instruction of children, not only in the south of England but in the north.

4455. Then there would be two advantages; one would be, that the want of good domestic servants would be in a certain degree supplied by that kind of education which you have described; and the other is, that when the girl becomes a wife, and a mother, she would be more likely to perform her duties to the advantage of those with whom she was connected?—Certainly.

4456. Mr. *Liddell*.] With regard to those schools you stated that a large portion

portion of the children that you proposed to be admitted into them would be without their parents, and thrown upon the world for support; with respect to the religious education in the county schools, how would you propose to provide that?—I have stated that I would have a chaplain to each county school, and as the law at present stands, that chaplain would have the superintendence of the religious education of all the children, except those for whose conscientious scruples relief is provided by the 19th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

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4457. Therefore the children in those schools would be educated by the chaplain, according to the principles and doctrines of the Church of England?—In an agricultural district, an inspection of the books of the workhouses would show that the great majority of those admitted into the workhouses are those who profess to belong to the Established Church, the number of Dissenters being extremely small; it is therefore difficult in such districts to see how a chaplain could be appointed for the Dissenters only; and I think if the situation of the school were selected with a view to such an object, that sufficient relief would be afforded for the number of Dissenters that are found in workhouses, under the 19th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and that there would be no great or prominent objection urged against committing the religious instruction of the children principally to the chaplain.

4458. The children whose religious education would be confided to the dissenting teachers, would only be so confided upon the special request of their parents?—The provision of the 19th section of the Act, for the religious instruction which shall be afforded to Dissenters, states that it shall be upon their request, or the request of the parents or the godfathers or godmothers of the children; in case of their not having either parent or godfather or godmother, if there were friends who expressed a similar desire, I think it is quite obvious that such a request would be immediately acceded to, and that the children would be separated from the religious instruction given in the workhouse.

4459. Mr. Miles.] You say that there are few children of Dissenters in the workhouses of unions with which you are connected?—Very few.

4460. In the county of Lancaster and in the county of York it would be different?—Certainly.

4461. Would the children of Roman Catholics be placed under the necessity of learning any catechisms, or any forms connected with religious belief that would be inconsistent with the principles of their parents?—Certainly not; if any objection were made by the parents, or the godfather or the godmother, or the relation of a child, to any part of the religious instruction, for example, to the reading of the Bible, supposing that such instruction was given or supposed to be given with a view to influence religious belief, and to impart the essential doctrines of Christianity, that objection would be taken to be valid; the child would be separated from that part of the instruction given in the school, and the religious teacher of the sect would be permitted to have admission to the workhouse, to give religious instruction to that child separately from the rest of the children.

4462. Then in reality, upon the ground of religious scruple, there does not seem to be any objection to the system you propose?—I do think that both Dissenters and Catholics would consider that, practically, this relief was sufficient for all the scruples they might entertain with regard to the religious instruction given in the workhouses, under the circumstances previously alluded to.

4463. Though the masters would be, for the most part, the chaplains of the Established Church, and would give to the great body of the children that kind of religious instruction that belongs to their own particular community?—The instruction would be divided under three heads, religious instruction, moral and industrial training, and secular instruction; now it would be quite easy to prescribe that to those several departments of instruction particular hours of the day should be allotted, so that it is evident, if a careful definition of what was religious instruction was adopted, it would be easy to separate the children of any sect, or to separate the children of Catholics from that instruction, and to give the children all the advantage of the moral and industrial training, and the instruction in secular knowledge.

4464. The two classes would, of course, be common to all, and therefore it would be only the religious instruction on which there could be any difference as to the course of instruction they should receive?—Certainly.

4465. What do you mean by secular instruction?—Under secular instruction I

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include reading, writing and arithmetic, and such general knowledge suited to the station of the children in life as it might be deemed desirable to give them; I personally think that no difficulty ought to be entertained in giving them as much knowledge as is given in the parochial schools in Scotland, with some difference in regard to the industrial instruction; and beyond that (being a good practical example) I should not desire to propose that the schools should proceed.

4466. You have given in a classification of children, divided under different heads; have you any similar classification of adults in the union workhouses which you have been superintending?—I have a classification of adults here, under several heads, which may give the Committee the means of ascertaining to what classes they belong, made in answer to a circular which I issued to the masters of workhouses, in the week ending January 1838. The table relates to the following heads; under the head of able-bodied men, the number married, and whose wives are resident in the workhouse; the number married, but whose wives are resident out of the workhouse; the number of widowers whose children are resident in the workhouse; the number of widowers without children in the workhouse; the number of single men, and, of the above-mentioned classes, the number who had been inmates of the workhouse before the formation of the union. Under the head of temporarily disabled, a similar enumeration of classes. Under the head of old and infirm, also a similar enumeration of classes; and, substituting husbands for wives, and widows for widowers, a similar enumeration of classes under the head of able-bodied women, and women temporarily disabled, and of old and infirm women.

4467. And that applies to the whole of the unions in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk which you have formed?—Certainly; to the whole of the unions in which the workhouses were in efficient operation.

[*The Witness delivered in the same.*—*Vide Appendix (D.)*]

4468. When the children come to a suitable age to leave the school, how are they disposed of in the unions?—As the improvements in the schools have only been recently effected, very considerable difficulty has been experienced, in some cases, in which there had been previous neglect, in providing situations for the children; but in those cases in which the improvements have been for some time in progress, little or no difficulty is experienced in providing the girls with places in domestic service, and the boys with situations with the farmers, in various occupations of husbandry.

4469. In practice is it found, as there has been an opportunity to try the experiment, that there is a kindly feeling between the children so instructed and the masters and mistresses that they have been placed with?—It is quite obvious, from the most cursory examination of the subject, that the relations which obtain between the master and servant, in the cases which I have described, are exceedingly more desirable than those that obtain under the apprenticeship system, and, in point of fact, they are excellent.

4470. Do you apprentice the child to the master?—We do not.

4471. Then, in the event of that child misconducting himself, and a quarrel arising between a master and a child, or a mistress and a child, is he or she returned back to the workhouse?—If it were an orphan or deserted child it would be returned to the workhouse, and its dependence would be resumed; but as the situations are commonly obtained in the parish to which the child belongs, it is obviously the interest of the occupiers that the dependence of the child should cease; and it is the interest of the child, by industry and skill, to deserve the permanency of the situation in the house of its employer; and, by the natural result of both parties promoting useful relations between them, it has not been found necessary to resort to any other expedients.

4472. Mr. *Hodges*.] You have stated that those schools are of quite recent origin?—We have had schools in the workhouses very far superior to any thing that obtained in the workhouses formerly; and though I have not gained all the objects that I desire, still I may say that certain of the schools have had a considerable effect in improving the manners and morals of the children, and making them desirable servants, though they are by no means every thing that we wish to obtain.

4473. Have they been sufficiently long established to enable you to speak confidently as to the results?—I cannot speak confidently as to a result which has not been obtained and which is in futurity; but, arguing from the past, I should say that certain of the schools as they now exist will afford great security to the rate-payers of the cessation of the dependence of the children.

4474. *Chairman*.

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4474. *Chairman.*] When you refer to experience, do you not refer to those schools which have been long established, such as the school at Hackney-Wick and others, the effects of which you have observed?—Of course, the acquaintance which I have had with the influence of those schools upon the morals and industry of children, strengthens in my mind the conviction of the utility of the system.

4475. *Mr. Baines.*] Have any children been sent out of the union workhouses and placed with persons who are to instruct them in business, or with whom they are placed as domestic servants, since the establishment of those union workhouses? Certainly.

4476. And as far as the experiment has been tried, which cannot have been for a long time, does it promise to be satisfactory?—I have already stated that there are schools which have been exceptions to this rule, and in which considerable difficulty has been experienced, and I spoke of other schools in which a better system had been adopted for a certain period; and in answer to the question, I wish to confine myself to this latter kind of schools. The experience we have had of this latter kind of training justifies me in saying that the results alluded to in the question have been attained.

4477. Do you happen to know that children sent from the workhouses under the old system very frequently returned to the workhouses after having been with their masters or mistresses for a month or two?—That was so common, that it was the rule instead of being the exception to the rule.

4478. Are any fees given with the children that are apprenticed out of the workhouse; do you give to the master or mistress who receive the children any fees out of the parochial funds?—That has not been adopted in any district under my superintendence, though I see that great advantages would be derived from making the emolument of the master, to a certain extent, dependent upon the more permanent cessation of the dependence of the child and its success in life; I think that it might be very proper indeed, and useful, to adopt the rule, that after a child had been a certain period at service the master should receive a premium for its continuance at service.

4479. That would be an improvement upon the former system, which was to give a fee at the time the child leaves the workhouse and enters upon service?—Yes, under the old system that was the case; and in consequence of the imperfection of certain of the workhouse schools, we have been driven to adopt that in a few exceptional cases under the new system.

4480. Do you happen to know that formerly under the old system a considerable number of children were sent from workhouses of the metropolis, and from other places into the country, to a distance of 200 or 300 miles from their proper protectors, and sent to work in factories without having anybody to watch over them, or at all to guard against their being ill treated in those factories?—I do.

4481. Have you any thing in the new law corresponding with that?—I know that in one or two cases children have been sent from certain of the workhouses into Lancashire to the manufactories; if those cases had come under my observation, I certainly should have objected to them, and I was not aware that they had occurred till after the arrangement had been made; one or two cases of that kind have occurred in which engagements have been made for the children, but every watchful care has been bestowed upon their condition by the migration agent who is employed in Lancashire.

4482. Then under the new system you have, in some instances, drafted off children in this way from the south, and sent them to manufactories in the north?—I only know one or two examples of that kind, when from 12 to 20 children, orphan and deserted children, were sent into Lancashire.

4483. *Chairman.*] Placing them under the protection and observation of the migration agent?—Exactly; who has from time to time made reports to the board of guardians of their condition, which have been, I believe, satisfactory to the board.

4484. That being a protection which, previously to the introduction of this law, those children would not have enjoyed?—Certainly, they would not have enjoyed it.

4485. *Mr. Baines.*] Would you recommend that that system should be acted upon, or that they should abstain from sending children in that way?—I have already stated, that when I heard of this proceeding I expressed my disapprobation of it, and in one or two cases in which the attempt was made by the board of guardians to send children without their natural protectors into Lanca-

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shire, I urged them to desist from pursuing the plan; I believe that, in the cases in which it has occurred, the great activity and vigilance of the migration agent has afforded to the children who have gone, all the protection that possibly could be given; besides, the situations, I have no doubt, have been selected amongst masters of great intelligence and humanity, whose own natural feelings would prompt them to protect the children.

4486. In those cases, after you had made the objection, was the practice abstained from in future?—Certainly.

4487. And it does not now, according to your knowledge, exist in any of the unions with which you are connected?—Certainly it would not occur again. I ought also to explain that, in the case in which the migration of children occurred, a reputable female, and I believe, a family also, went with the children from the district, but certainly a reputable female went.

4488. Fees have been paid with children that have been sent out of the workhouse; do you know whether in any cases there have been fees paid by parishioners who have refused to take children when they have been awarded to them?—Fines have been paid under the system of compulsory apprenticeship, and those fines amounted to a very considerable sum, in many of the old incorporations, annually; the occupier was liable to a fine, and, upon a second fine being obtained by the offer of a child to another occupier, it was common to apply those accumulated fines as the fee of apprenticeship of the child; sometimes 20*l.* were thus given for the apprenticeship of the child, which by no means ensured its well-being; on the contrary, the examples, great numbers of which I have examined, of the operation of that system have proved that it did not secure the well-being of the children so apprenticed.

4489. Then, in point of fact, it was disadvantageous both to the children and the master?—Certainly; no system was more unpopular among the occupiers, and no system operated to procure greater injury to the children.

4490. Mr. *Scrope*.] You have said that you see no objection to the children in the workhouse being educated in some neighbouring school, if there was one, supposing that the number in the workhouse was not sufficient to make it worth while to procure the services of an adequate master there?—Yes.

4491. Would you, as Assistant-commissioner, feel yourself justified in sanctioning the payment necessary for the education of those children?—I think the children certainly ought not to be sent to any school out of the control of the board of guardians; and I think, therefore, if the plan were adopted, that the schools should be provided at the expense of the union, and that if payment were made it should be by the independent labourers whose children come to the school, the school itself being under the guidance of the board of guardians.

4492. You contemplate, therefore, the establishment of a new school for that purpose; but my question referred to this case: there being no school in the workhouse, but there being a good school in the neighbourhood of the workhouse, in a town, for example, already established, say a national school, requiring a payment of 2*d.* per head per week, would you, as Assistant-commissioner, feel yourself justified in sanctioning the payment of that 2*d.* for a certain number of children maintained in the workhouse, but sent to be educated daily in the national school?—I think that the responsibilities of the board of guardians, in connexion with the subject of the training of children are so great, that they ought not to send the children to a school over which they have not control, but that the school ought to be within their control; and if the children were sent to the neighbouring parochial school, the board of guardians would not have authority to regulate the discipline of that school, to interfere with the schoolmaster and schoolmistress by a direct exercise of their authority, but only by an indirect; I think it preferable, if the children were educated in conjunction with the children of the independent labourers, which seems to be exceedingly desirable, that the school in which they were so trained should be under the control and guidance of the board of guardians.

4493. But your answer supposes the adoption of a new plan and the establishment of new schools, which is unlikely to be carried, at all events immediately, into execution; supposing there were 20 children in any workhouse, and there was no workhouse education there, and there was an excellent education in the neighbourhood, would you have any objection to paying the twopences per week for each of those children for attending this school?—As there does not appear to me to be sufficient security for the permanence of the excellent system which might obtain

obtain in that school, unless it were under the guidance and control of the board of guardians or the Commissioners; I should not think that school so desirable as providing by the direction of the board of guardians an efficient master who should be altogether under their control; and if any change were made in the present plan, I should prefer that it should be the establishment of a school without the workhouse, for the mutual benefit of the children in the workhouse and the children of independent labourers, under the directions of the board; or the establishment of county schools.

4494. But, practically, the board of guardians would have the power of withdrawing those children from the school, in case it were not conducted upon the principles which it approved of?—But if, in the principles upon which any system is founded, there be inherent defects, great obstruction and embarrassment must arise in conducting the practical operation of that system.

4495. Are there not many instances of workhouses in which the children are not sufficiently numerous to make it worth while to pay for a schoolmaster, and in which, consequently, there is no education going on?—There is only one instance in my district in which a schoolmaster is not already provided, or about to be provided. There are only one or two cases in which the schoolmaster is not provided; that is mere accident, arising from the dismissal of a schoolmaster, and a certain period having intervened before the election of a new one.

4496. Does not it frequently happen that widows with poor children, or widowers with poor children, receiving out-door relief from the parish in the shape of allowance, allow those children to grow up uneducated and in a very careless manner; and would you think yourself authorized, or the board of guardians authorized, in refusing the allowance in those cases, unless the children were educated?—I think the first question for the board of guardians is, Is the applicant necessarily indigent? and they are bound, as the first object of their care, to relieve that indigence; and that all those questions concerning the moral and religious training of the children must be subservient to the main duty of the board of guardians, either the temporary or the permanent cessation of the dependence of the applicant.

4497. The question supposes that the widow is receiving out-door-relief; would you not recommend the guardians to refuse out-door relief, and to give that relief in the workhouse, where the children obtain a good education?—Boards of guardians do practically make inquiries whether the children are employed, or go to school, if there be a school in the neighbourhood; and they encourage that to a certain extent, I may say, by insisting upon the children being employed, or going to school; but they do not go so far, in the case of a widow with a large family, as to refuse out-door relief, supposing she should refuse to listen and conform to the wishes of the board of guardians.

4498. In such a case, if the widow answered that she had no means of payment for the education of her children, would the board of guardians be justified in paying the expenses of the education of those children?—The fact is, that in the rural districts where schools exist, they are, for the most part, charity schools, and a payment is not required; so that, practically, the instances in which a payment is required from the parents for the education of their children are, in the rural districts, exceedingly few.

4499. Mr. *Liddell*.] Is it certain that in all cases the board of guardians will be the fittest parties to exercise an entire control over the school?—Most boards of guardians contain certain intelligent individuals to whom such departments of the system are objects of peculiar interest, and often of peculiar care; and I think that a board of management for 10 or 12 unions, if such individuals were selected to form that board, would be found altogether sufficient; I confess that I see great obstacles in the present constitution of the board of guardians, and the interference of individuals of lower intelligence, and perhaps narrower views, with the system of instruction communicated in the schools; I think that those difficulties might be eluded by the formation of a board of management, consisting of the more intelligent members.

4500. A sort of school committee, to be collated from the different board of guardians?—Yes.

4501. Mr. *Slaney*.] In describing the system which would be likely to be adopted by boards of guardians for the improvement of the education of the children of the poor, you have sketched out a plan which would be a very great improvement upon the plan formerly pursued in the education of the paupers; if

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that should be put into practice, do you not think that it would be necessary to improve, generally, some how or other, the education of the humbler classes of independent labourers?—I think that most desirable; and I believe that if the board of guardians discharge, to the extent that I have described, and in the manner that I should wish, their duties towards the pauper children, that would be one of the most powerful means of promoting the results alluded to in the question.

4502. Mr. *Baines*.] Has it been objected to, in any of the schools, that the children should not be taught, also, to write?—I have not merely heard objections to the children being taught to write, but I have heard of objections of this sort, that children should be taught nothing, provided they could not be taught to read the Bible in a foreign language, by which I understood that it was believed, that any secular knowledge being given to the children would be solely injurious, and that the only means of confining knowledge entirely to religious knowledge, would be to teach them in such a way that they could read no other book but the Bible.

4503. *Chairman*.] You have heard that objection made by persons who would object to education altogether?—Yes.

4504. Mr. *Baines*.] Has the objection to teaching children to write been an objection urged to any extent in the unions?—I must say that the boards of guardians have shown a great disposition to adopt the suggestions which have been made to them concerning the improvement of the schools, and that by the explanations which have been made, showing that the grand object was to rear a race of hardy and intelligent labourers, and not to give the children knowledge unsuited to their situation in life, they have been led to the adoption of the plans which have been pursued, without a very great amount of difficulty and embarrassment; at the same time, I cannot conceal that there are not merely individuals who object to all education, but also individuals who object to education, except of a very limited character. I, however, have not found any opposition as yet, which could not be removed by patient perseverance.

4505. Then in all cases it has been so far removed that children have been allowed to learn to write as well as to read?—I remember only one or two instances in which, besides being taught to read and write, they are not also taught arithmetic, and have a certain amount of general knowledge communicated to them throughout the unions in Norfolk and Suffolk.

4506. That prevails throughout the whole of the unions?—Yes, it does; and arrangements are now being made for the introduction of a superior system of instruction.

4507. Mr. *Slaney*.] Are there attached to the workhouses places of exercise for the children?—The children go out to work daily for two or three hours, and they have a great deal of healthy exercise in that way. In some of the workhouses also, we have thought it desirable to provide the children with gymnastic exercises; for example, a circular swing is erected in one workhouse-yard, and the children amuse themselves with that or some similar apparatus. Those instances are not numerous, but there are instances in which the children are allowed to take a walk with the master or mistress.

4508. *Chairman*.] Beyond the boundary of the workhouse?—Yes.

4509. Mr. *Slaney*.] Are the children from the ages of four to six treated differently from the children of the ages of six to ten?—I have explained to the Committee that the difficulties, as regards classification, are extremely great, on account of the school being in the workhouse; and that I hope that those difficulties might be obviated by collecting the children together in county schools, in which that classification might be adopted.

4510. Supposing that classification to take place, so that children from three to six were in one school, and children from six to ten in the other, do not you think that a greater degree of relaxation ought to be afforded to the little children than the others?—My idea is that a certain amount of relaxation is absolutely necessary for the success of the school discipline; and I have strongly urged the masters if possible to avoid all recourse to punishment, and especially degrading punishment, and to rely upon their skill in communicating knowledge, and upon occasional relaxation in getting rid of the lassitude which is incident to school discipline, and procuring a healthful tone in the school.

4511. With respect to the schools now established where relaxation is confined in a great measure to exercise by walking in the garden, do you not think that they

they ought to be permitted, those young children, to have sports in which they can amuse themselves?—That is already supplied in some of the workhouses.

4512. They have some time for play besides the time given for exercise and walking out with the master?—Yes.

4513. Mr. *Hodges*.] With reference to some of your early answers to questions from the Chairman, you used these words: “We have adopted the system of taking some of the children belonging to large families, by way of relieving those families, into the workhouse; and we have done so during what we call the period of transition.” Have you had the direct sanction of the Poor Law Commissioners for that arrangement?—I understand the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act to be formed upon this principle; that there shall be a gradual abandonment of those practices which have hitherto prevailed, and a gradual adoption of the provisions of the law, under the regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners. Now in Norfolk and Suffolk the practice of taking children into the workhouses, was one of the practices of the previous system of relief, and it has not yet become extinct; it was not only incident to the workhouses of incorporations, but also to the workhouses of parishes. We are now in the course of the gradual abandonment of that practice; but we have not thought it right, under all the circumstances of the district, to proceed at once and abruptly to a total change of the system.

4514. Have you the direct sanction of the Poor Law Commissioners for that arrangement?—I do not know that I have received any official sanction; I do know that I reported to the Poor Law Commissioners that this practice still survived, and that I was applying myself to procure, by gradual measures, its extinction, and the communications from the Poor Law Commissioners have not stated any thing but the expression of a desire that it might be no longer prolonged than might appear to be necessary for the gradual transition which it was their desire should be effected.

4515. Are you aware whether the Poor Law Commissioners have refused this species of relief to large families in other districts?—I have no acquaintance with any orders issued by the Poor Law Commissioners to other districts; I have merely a knowledge of my own district.

4516. As far as regards this particular part of the Poor Law, you are of opinion that a gradual approach to the principles of this law is the safest course?—I am of opinion, not merely in that respect, but in every other department of the Act.

4517. Will you explain particularly your meaning when you used the words “period of transition”?—I mean this. Whereas by the plan of making up the wages of labourers under the former system of parochial management, by which men obtained out-door relief for lost time, there was a most extensive interference between the natural relations, which, in districts where that had not occurred, obtained between the master and the servant; I mean by the period of transition the period during which, by various expedients adopted under the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, the just and natural relation between the master and servant is induced, and that is done by successive steps, which, if it be the desire of the Committee, I will proceed to explain.

4518. Will you do so?—In the first instance, the boards of guardians have not merely continued out-door relief, and made up wages, but they have continued the allowance to large families. During this period, probably, the workhouse was in the course of alteration, or the workhouse was building; when the workhouse has been built they have first interfered, probably, with the able-bodied labourers, by making offers to single men; and then they have successively advanced through the various strata (if I may use the word) of labourers, in proportion as their families and necessities increased, offering the workhouse to successive classes of labourers. The last class which has been interfered with is the labourers with large families; and when that interference took place, which was not an interference that immediately excluded the practice which had previously obtained, of taking certain of the children into the workhouse, it was thought that the permission of the continuance of that practice, for a certain period, was in direct accordance with the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, which permit a gradual extinction of the practice of the allowance system. Certain of the boards of guardians, however, in my district, have, at an earlier period than others, thought it expedient to abandon the practice of relieving large families, by taking children into the workhouse; and they have done it on these grounds, that they

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believed the practice of taking large families into the workhouse afforded a larger amount of protection to the labourer having a large family, than the practice of taking a portion of his children into the workhouse. Others of the boards of guardians have, for a certain period longer, permitted this custom to survive, but it is now in the course of abandonment throughout my district.

4519. Over what probable space of time do you consider the period of transition to have extended?—In this respect, that I think that now boards of guardians will probably desire that practice, of taking children of large families into the workhouse, should not survive this summer.

4520. Mr. Baines.] That would apply to unions that have been established some time, because unions that are only just now upon the point of being established would not have any transition state at all, if you come to the determination to terminate it during the present summer?—No unions have been recently established in my district; most of the workhouses in my district have been in operation for more than a year; and in those unions which have not been long in operation there are peculiar facilities for the abandonment of this system, arising from a variety of circumstances relating to the particular district, into which I need not descend.

4521. Mr. Hodges.] When you state that in your district, in the course of this summer, the relief to large families in this manner will probably be discontinued, will that discontinuance be with your full approbation?—My belief is, if the change proceeds, as all the changes in my district have proceeded, solely upon the conviction of the board of guardians, that an abandonment of that plan will not occasion any difficulty in the unions; because I think that such an adjustment of the income of the family, by affording a large amount of the best piece-work to the man, and by affording employment to the wife and employment to the children, will occur, so that a sufficient annual income will be provided for the largest families in my district.

4522. Are you able to assure the Committee, that, from any inquiry you have made, the farmers generally of that district are prepared to create more work, and to advance the wages, so as to enable those men with large families to maintain those families without the relief which they have hitherto had in the workhouse?—Not only from general inquiry (if I understand the word wages in this sense, the annual income of the family), but from special inquiry in particular districts, and having made it a subject of minute observation for some time past, I am perfectly convinced that the majority of the intelligent occupiers in Norfolk and Suffolk prefer that the system of allowance to large families, and the system of taking children into the workhouse, should cease.

4523. Then are the Committee to understand that a certain quantity of work has been omitted to be done, though acknowledged to be necessary to be *done*, on the part of the farmers of that district, merely because the children, who otherwise would do this work, have been maintained in the workhouses?—I think the whole influence of the workhouse system is this, that in the first place it places on the side of the labourer strong and powerful motives to become an industrious and faithful servant, and so renders his labour more valuable; and that it places on the part of the occupier the strongest possible motive for a cessation of the dependence of the labourers in his particular parish, and that by the adjustment which occurs from more faithful service being rendered, and from its being the more direct and obvious interest of the occupier to provide employment for the labourers in the parish, that the whole labourers of the parish do come to be employed, and that such an adjustment of the income of the family does take place as provides for the necessities of those large families; I may illustrate this by saying that it has been my constant practice at boards of guardians to say, in reference to the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, there is one of three alternatives to the occupiers of the parish, either that they should provide employment and wages in such a manner as to be equal to the necessities of the labourers' families, or that they should provide for their maintenance in the workhouse at double the cost, or that they should provide the means of their going to a more profitable field of employment; and in any one of those modes (of course, I conceive that the residence of an able-bodied labourer in the workhouse not only practically, but must of necessity be transient, it being the obvious interest of every body in the parish that it should be so); in every one of those modes the interests of the labourers will be most materially promoted, and when I say that more employment has been provided, I apprehend that the intelligence, the skill,
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and a large amount of the capital of the occupiers has been brought into play in a much more active manner, to provide that employment for the labourers of the district.

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4524. Are you so far assured of that as to be able to state any one parish in Norfolk or Suffolk where that has taken place?—Last year, for my own purposes solely, and simply for my own information, I thought it right to visit a particular district, which had been one of the most pauperized districts of Suffolk, and I spent several days in the district assembling the principal occupiers of certain parishes in the vestry; we took the relief books for the year 1833–4; we extracted the name of every person who was then receiving allowance from the parish; we took out the whole amount of the relief of that person for the year 1833–4, and we then made particular inquiries of the occupiers in the parish what was his condition as respected wages, as respected employment, as respected the employment of his wife and of his children, and we found that the great majority of the persons who had been dependent upon the poor-rates were no longer dependent; and upon inquiring into their condition, it was found that there had been an increase in the income of the families, derived from wages, which it was most obvious supplied what had been derived from the poor-rate. That was carried to the extent of about 600 families, in a very important district, and cost me a very laborious application during many successive days.

4525. Be so good as to state the district which you are describing?—It was the neighbourhood of Hadleigh, in Suffolk.

4526. The result has been that wages have risen, or, at least, the receipts of the family have been greater than they were under the former system?—Even the nominal rate of wages for week-day employment has risen in Norfolk and Suffolk; in this particular district the ordinary rate of wages for week-day employment was 8s. a week, but it has risen in that district to 10s. per week generally; but by wages I do not think it is fair to speak simply of the wages which are given for week-day employment, and I believe that the greatest illusion prevails on the subject of wages, from not taking into account all the various methods of increasing the income of labourers' families which are resorted to by the occupiers, in order to furnish sufficient reward for their services, and to attach them to their masters, in point of fact, to stimulate their industry and integrity, many of which methods, except upon a very minute investigation, escape observation, even in such an investigation as I endeavoured to conduct at the period to which I allude, not merely seeking to know what was the nominal amount of wages, but how much was earned by the wife, and how much by each of the children, and what other perquisites were given to the labourers.

4527. *Chairman.*] Was the result to convince you that a great increase in the means of subsistence of the family had taken place since the introduction of the law?—The result was to convince me absolutely that the income of the labourer was not only not diminished, but, in a majority of the instances, was considerably increased.

4528. *Mr. Hodges.*] Did you take the trouble to go into their houses and ascertain their mode of living; was that improved under the new system?—It has been very frequently the custom with me to go into the houses of labourers; I have endeavoured to do so alone, and without confessing who I was and what my object was, because I think that under those circumstances alone could I arrive at the truth.

4529. Then you have felt it to be your duty to make those visits to the labourers' houses?—Certainly.

4530. Have you ascertained that their condition is really improved?—That is a much more difficult thing to ascertain than it is to ascertain the truth by the method of investigation which I have described to the Committee; because I think there is a certain *esprit du corps* among all classes of society, and that it should exist among labourers is not at all to their disparagement, as compared with other classes of society; I do think that such investigations do not always, unless you have the means of personal observation and actual facts before you, enable you to arrive at the truth.

4531. *Chairman.*] Having ascertained that the income, and the means of the families of the labourers, were increased, have you any reason to suppose that their comforts of living were not increased?—I have no reason to suppose that.

4532. *Mr. Scrope.*] Do I understand you to say, that the cases that you tested in this manner, were cases, any of them, of labourers with very large families?—Yes.

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4533. And in those cases the income had increased?—In those cases, in that particular district, the incomes had increased.

4534. Mr. *Slaney*.] There was more labour given to the children than there was before?—Exactly.

4535. And more piece-work?—Certainly; I have not been asked the question, but I think it desirable to state, that there was in that district a certain amount of greater facility than there is in all districts; and I do so in order that what is drawn from me may include all the material facts. I therefore wish to say, that in Hadleigh there was a silk factory, in which the children were extensively employed; but it was stated to me by Mr. ——— and other gentlemen, that the projectors of that factory could not have filled the factory with children before the Poor Law came into operation in the Cosford Union; and that he obtained children very much as a consequence of the desire there was on the part of the parents that the children should procure employment; and the desire there was on the part of the occupiers to send them to profitable employment; so that I think there was a certain amount of employment in that district which does not exist in every district.

4536. Mr. *Hodges*.] Are you aware of the state of things in Framlingham, in Suffolk?—I have never been able to make such an investigation in Framlingham.

4537. That is in your district, is it not?—Yes.

4538. Is Framlingham in a union?—In the Plomesgate union.

4539. Have you ever heard it stated that, in consequence of the discontinuance of out-door relief, very great distress has been occasioned to the labouring classes, and that the resident clergy have been exceedingly burthened by appeals to their charity, which they have found it impossible to resist?—On the contrary; I have here an application from the board of guardians of the Plomesgate Union, in the following terms: “At the board of guardians held yesterday” (this is dated the 7th of March of this year—present, various individuals who are stated,) “in pursuance of a notice given on the 20th day of February last by the vice-chairman and affixed for the subsequent two weeks in the usual place in the board-room, it was resolved, *nem. con.*, on the motion of the vice-president, seconded by Mr. George Edwards, as follows, ‘That a letter shall be written by the clerk to the Poor Law Commissioners to the effect following:—The board of guardians of this union, convinced by the practice and experience of two years of the benefit conferred on the district by the refusal of out-door relief to the able-bodied poor, and satisfied that the strict observance of this rule is highly advantageous to the labouring class, desire to secure the board against any departure from the salutary course hitherto pursued in this respect, and to give to their practice for the past the sanction of a law for the future. For this purpose, they request that the Poor Law Commissioners will be pleased to issue their order to this union, prohibiting relief out of the workhouse to all poor not coming under one of the following descriptions, viz.: 1st, aged infirm persons, who are partially or wholly disabled; 2nd, widows with children too young to work; 3rd, widows in the first six months of widowhood; 4th, illegitimate children of women who are in actual service, at wages not sufficient to maintain such children; 5th, cases of sickness, accident, or urgent temporary necessity; 6th, that new cases of non-resident paupers be not entertained, without an order of removal.’” That is an application to the Poor Law Commissioners, without the slightest hint or suggestion on my part, entirely originating with the board of guardians, and expressive of their perfect conviction that the law is operating for the welfare of the poorer classes in that neighbourhood in which Framlingham is. That union has been formed for two years and some months.

4540. Mr. *Baines*.] Are there any clergymen in that union who act as guardians?—I am not quite certain whether any clergymen do act as members of the board of guardians. I think not.

4541. Mr. *Slaney*.] Is that a rural district entirely?—Entirely so.

4542. How many may the population of that union be?—I think about 21,000.

4543. Mr. *Estcourt*.] Are you of the same opinion with that board of guardians, that such benefit has been derived by the labouring classes?—Absolutely so.

4544. Lord *John Russell*.] Supposing the law not to be interfered with, do you expect that the operation of it would tend to improve the condition of the labourers, and that it would work better without any extraordinary events or accidents happening in the next year, and the following year, than it has in the past year?—I have not the slightest doubt of it.

4545. And

4545. And on the contrary, supposing that the law was much interfered with, and its operation disturbed by a recurrence to any thing like the allowance system, what do you think would be the effect?—The best answer that I can give to that is a reference to the fact, that in my district the Poor Law Commissioners have only issued two orders to any of the boards of guardians; the operation of the law, therefore, entirely depends upon the opinions of the several boards, and throughout the district the law is, I believe, as fully carried into effect as probably in any district of England; that is not in consequence of any interference from myself or from the Poor Law Commissioners, but solely from the operation of the conviction of the guardians; out-door relief in every union throughout Norfolk and Suffolk, with the exception of two or three unions has been absolutely refrained from to able-bodied men during the late snow-storm; and I have, from chairmen of various unions, letters assuring me that the effect of that has been to provide employment, where otherwise the men would have been thrown out of employment, and thus to secure to them an income from wages instead of an income from the poor-rate; those letters also state that the boards of guardians, certain of them, are most anxious that there should be no recurrence whatever to the allowance system; the application which I have already put into the possession of the Committee from the board of guardians of the Plomesgate Union is to be taken as evidence of the fear of that board of guardians on going out of office, lest any of their successors should not have the same strong conviction of the law as they have.

4546. Mr. *Mills*.] Do you agree in all the suggestions made in this letter of the board of guardians?—I cannot say so positively, because there are certain things excepted here which I think are needlessly excepted.

4547. They recommend that, in the case of illegitimate children of women who are in actual service at wages not sufficient to maintain such children, relief should be afforded out of the workhouse?—I observe that; and in that respect I should not adhere to the opinion of the board of guardians.

4548. You would still adhere to the letter of the law in that respect?—Certainly.

4549. Mr. *Hodges*.] With reference to this paper, there is an exception under the fifth head, "Urgent temporary necessity;" did they explain to you what they meant by that, or have you any means of knowing what their meaning was?—I believe that by this might be meant, if any calamitous accident befel a labourer, if a vagrant were found in extreme necessity in any remote parish in the union requiring immediate assistance, if very urgent illness occurred in the family of a labourer requiring immediate attention for the preservation of life, or something of that kind; but though it is not easy for me completely to define that in a formula, the cases are quite obvious to those who have practical experience in the working of the law.

4550. You think they did not allude to cases in which a family were, for a considerable period of time, deprived of work, from a continuance of bad weather, or any other cause over which the labourer has no control?—On the contrary, this letter came from that union at the close of the snow-storm, where, though I had not visited them for some months, because I had been occupied by urgent duties elsewhere, the board of guardians, after discussion, determined to relieve no case of able-bodied men out of the workhouse.

4551. Lord *John Russell*.] Suppose the case of a labourer being unable to work from illness, and two or three of the children were ill at the same time, would you consider that a case in which relief might be given out of the workhouse?—In all cases where the heads of the family are ill, they are relieved, if the board consider them in indigent circumstances, and if the families are ill, relief is given to the individuals, if the guardians conceive that they are in indigent circumstances.

4552. Suppose the case of a mother being ill, and three of the children sick of the measles, should you think that an order that the children should not be relieved without going into a separate workhouse from the mother, was a proper exercise of the discretion of the guardians?—It would never be done in my district.

4553. Mr. *Liddell*.] What was the duration of the snow-storm in Norfolk and Suffolk?—Six or seven weeks.

4554. Mr. *Bolling*.] With respect to that agricultural union into which you made an inquiry, did you institute an inquiry into the amount of saving of the poor-rate, and the amount paid to the families?—Not exactly so; I ascertained, in the year 1833-4, what was the amount of money paid to each person from the poor-rate, and I also ascertained what were the wages and the amount of employment given to those individuals in that year, and to the family, and I further ascer-

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tained what amount of relief he had received in the year preceding March 1837, and what had been his employment, and what his wages, and the employment and the wages of the individuals in his family at that period.

4555. Mr. *Slaney*.] You have stated that in those districts the working classes, you think, are on the whole much better off, and on the whole, from the change of system, their gains are greater, taking the whole family together, than was the case formerly; do you not think that as they are more dependent than they formerly were upon their own exertions, it would be beneficial to them if the advantages of savings' banks were brought more clearly and more distinctly before them in the rural districts, in villages and so on, than has been hitherto done?—I have some tables here, showing the amount of the sums deposited in the savings' banks of Norfolk and Suffolk for the six years preceding 20th November 1836, which I obtained from the National Debt Office, and it will be found in the year 1836 there has been a considerable increase in the number of depositors and the amount of deposits.

[*The Witness delivered in the same.*—*Vide Appendix (E. 1 & 2.)*]

4556. Mr. *Estcourt*.] You said that in only two unions under your superintendence has the peremptory rule been sent down from the Commissioners?—Certainly.

4557. But you said that in all the unions under your superintendence that rule, though not formally sent to them, is acted upon?—With the exception of three or four unions, in which a certain amount of exception was permitted during the pressure of the recent severe weather, where there was a certain moderate departure from the observance of the rule, but in the great majority of the unions there has been a perfect observance of the rule.

4558. Previously to the severe weather was that rule adhered to in those unions you have last spoken of?—In one of those unions, I think I may say in two, I had considerable suspicion, though I did not make minute inquiry, that it was not adhered to, that there were certain exceptions, but the practice of boards of guardians, almost universally, is not to admit exceptions.

4559. That, therefore, is the case in the unions under your superintendence, that the peremptory rule is virtually acted upon, though in only two instances it has been formally sent down?—Yes.

4560. Do you think, therefore, that the board of guardians under your superintendence have exercised a wise discretion in carrying out the principles of this law?—I do.

4561. Do you think that there would have been any necessity for sending down to those two boards of guardians the peremptory rule?—In one case it was applied for; in the other case, the circumstance of sending it down arose from a very considerable departure from the ordinary custom of the district, and a memorial was presented from the magistrates and certain of the guardians of the union, requesting the Commissioners to issue the rule; it was issued upon their request, because a certain other portion of the board were very desirous of giving out-door relief.

4562. Do you not think that, such being the case, the discretion of the board of guardians in strictly adhering to the principles of the law may be relied upon?—I should say, in my district, looking to the present state, that the board of guardians have exhibited very great intelligence and exceeding fidelity in their application to their duties; but, looking to the future, it is impossible to say what motives might not interfere, in the course of time, with the operations of those boards; and I think the best proof that that suspicion does not rest with me alone, is the application made from the board of Plomesgate Union, which I have already read to the Committee, showing that, before they go out of office, they are jealous of what may be done by their successors, if the law is left uncertain, and they wish that the greatest possible security should be provided, in order that there should be no relapse to the vicious practices of the allowance system.

4563. Lord *John Russell*.] Do you find that the attendance at the board of guardians grows slacker than it was?—I do not find, at periods when there are important duties to perform, the attendance at the board of guardians does grow slacker. I have here, which I accidentally selected from my papers, an account of the average attendance at one board of guardians, which was printed by the board, and circulated in their district, showing the attendances at the board of guardians of the Wangford Union; and I find that the average number of attendants was $19\frac{1}{2}$ during the whole year.

4564. At the weekly meetings?—Yes.

[*The Witness delivered in the same.*—*Vide Appendix (F.)*]

4565. Mr.

4565. Mr. *Miles*.] What are the number of guardians?—I think rather more than 30, but I do not quite remember.

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4566. Mr. *Estcourt*.] Do you not think that, supposing the peremptory rule were not sent to the board of guardians, if they were disposed to act contrary to the principles of the Act, immediate notice could be taken by the Assistant-commissioner, and a superintending direction by the Commissioners in London, to prevent it?—That disposition might not affect a single board; it might affect the boards of an entire district; if it affected merely a single board, I should have considerable confidence in the personal interference of the Assistant-commissioner, and the explanations which he might make to the board might induce them to adopt the provisions of the law; but if it occurred throughout the boards of an entire district, it is quite obvious that it would be impossible for the Assistant-commissioner to procure such a result; and I do not desire to put forward the example of Norfolk and Suffolk as one which would apply to other districts of England. I think it will be remembered by the Committee, that the occupations in Norfolk and Suffolk are generally large; that the occupiers are men of capital and great skill, and that probably there is a larger average amount of intelligence in the board; and certainly there has been the utmost attention to their duties; probably that which has occurred in Norfolk and Suffolk could not be hoped to occur in every district throughout the country.

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4567. Upon the whole, you think it desirable to restrain the exercise of the discretion of the guardians by the issue of the peremptory rule?—Hitherto I have not, myself, applied in any case for the issue of the rule to any board of guardians in my district, with the exception of one, in which I merely supported the application from the members of the board, and therefore, up to the present period, I have not found the slightest necessity for the exercise of the authority of the Poor Law Commissioners; but I cannot help saying that I think that necessity might arise at any moment, and if the advantage of the law were to be jeopardized by the feeling of any individual board or any district, I think it would be incumbent upon the Poor Law Commissioners to issue their rule.

4568. *Chairman*.] May it not be desirable, under particular circumstances, to relieve the board of guardians from the responsibility, even where their convictions may be in favour of the peremptory rule, by issuing it?—Certainly; and such feeling has been expressed to me, but I have thought it so useful that the operation of the law, resting solely upon the conviction of the boards of guardians, should be permitted, that I have declined for the present acceding to the wishes of certain boards, that they should be relieved from the responsibility.

4569. Mr. *Baines*.] Before the new law came into existence, was there not a great dissimilarity in the practice of administering the law in different parts of the country?—Certainly.

4570. And yet they were all under the same law?—The same law, though there were modifications of the law, which were adopted in different parts of the country by special acts, at the discretion of the parishioners, in applying for particular statutes to come into force in their districts.

4571. But, with the exception of those local Acts, if there was a great dissimilarity before in the mode of administering the law, they being, with the exception of those Acts, all under the same law, is it not likely that if there were not a superintending power, by which uniformity is kept up, they would degenerate into the same course of practice again?—I have no hesitation in saying so; and at the present I must say, that the cordiality that exists between various boards of guardians and myself personally, and the confidence which they express in the Poor Law Commissioners, is probably, in some respects, a lucky accident which cannot be always expected to continue; if, from any circumstances whatever, the feelings or views of individuals changed, it is quite apparent to me that the Legislature should insist upon its view of the principles being carried into effect, and not leave it to the judgment of each individual board.

4572. Mr. *Scrope*.] You have stated, that the relief of the able-bodied, exclusively, in the workhouse, when carried into full effect, had a direct effect upon the rate of wages, tending to raise them, by a sort of compulsory influence on the occupiers of property in the parish to which the labourer belonged?—I have stated, that the law appeared to me to impose upon the board of guardians one of three alternatives, the maintenance of the labourer, with sufficient employment and sufficient wages, the maintenance of the labourer at double the cost in the

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workhouse, or the provision of the means of removing the labourer to other parishes.

4573. The onus of maintaining the labourers sent to the workhouses falls not upon the board of guardians, collectively, but upon the rate-payers of the different parishes to which they belong?—When I speak of the guardians, I speak of them as the representatives of the parishes.

4574. That influence, you say, has operated powerfully in the Hadleigh district?—Certainly, in improving the incomes of the labourers, by providing employment.

4575. That influence, to whatever extent it prevails, depends upon the size of the parish and the amount of rate in it; for example, in a large parish, that influence will be very much diluted, as affecting each rate-payer, whereas, in a small parish, each would have a proportionately stronger interest in diminishing the rate?—I think that, in a large parish, that influence will be most sensibly felt, in the course of time, in this way; in a large parish, when evils arise, they are proportioned to the size of the parish; a bad system of administration will create a very large evil in a large parish; but a bad system of administration will create absolutely less evil in the small parish, so that the interests of individuals are brought into play equally in a large parish as in a small.

4576. Take the case of an able-bodied labourer, with a large family, applying to the board for relief, on the ground that the wages which he receives are insufficient to maintain his family; would not the board of guardians take into consideration the amount of his earnings, generally, and form their own opinion as to their sufficiency for the maintenance of his family, and, upon that opinion, either refuse or admit him to the workhouse?—Certainly.

4577. Supposing that they admitted him, how would that admission have any direct influence upon his employer, so as to induce him to raise his wages, unless his payment to the rate of the parish, by which the man should be supported, bore a certain sensible proportion?—It would not have all the effect which practically does obtain, if the connexion between the employer and the labourer were one, simply of interest and not to a certain extent of feeling; but I believe that one of the greatest benefits derived from the Poor Law Amendment Act has been by an increase, first, of the industry and the fidelity of the labourer, and then by making it more obviously the interest of the employer to substitute much more healthful relations between the employer and the labourer than those which previously existed. It is not merely the nominal amount of wages which must be taken into account, but the influence of the fear of losing an industrious and faithful servant, who has obtained an acquaintance with the peculiar modes of employment practised by his master, and has obtained a sort of permanent situation upon his farm; all these things must be taken into account besides the simple pecuniary interest.

4578. Are there not, in most rural parishes, certain persons among the employers upon whom, from the dullness of their intellect, or from the selfishness of their minds, those feelings are not likely to have any great effect, and who would prefer continuing the inferior rate of wages to an increase of wages, even though the consequence of such refusal should be an increase of rate to the parish?—I think there are such individuals; but their dullness, or their selfishness, would probably lead them to employ the single men and the men with small families, as a means of escaping from the necessity of providing an increase of income for the labourer; but a labourer with a large family is compelled, having a larger amount of responsibility, to exercise a larger amount of forethought and industry; and such persons become the trust-worthy servants in husbandry, who recommend themselves by those qualities to superior situations, with intelligent and humane masters, and who, by those qualities, retain those situations.

4579. Practically, have you not found that there are individuals in those parishes who hold out in that way, and adhere to a low rate of wages, refusing to bring them up to the higher level, which the more intelligent of their neighbours have resorted to?—I believe there are exceptions to every rule, and I should not be disposed to deny that there are exceptions to the rule which I have stated; but I think it not necessary to state the exceptions which are admitted, but to state the rule.

4580. In those cases of presumed inadequate wages, the workhouse relief is applied by the board of guardians, and in that way a direct effect is produced upon wages by the action of the board?—If by wages is understood, which I wish to be understood, the annual amount of the income of the labourer from employment, that is the case.

4581. You

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4581. You admit that the influence is diminished in proportion to the extent of the parish, and the number of occupiers in it?—In a series of years, I do not admit that; in a series of years, I believe that the occupiers generally will find that it is their interest, whether in a large parish or a small, to adopt correct methods of administration. In a small parish, where there is a smaller amount of intelligence, and where there are needy farmers, it is obvious that a larger period must be permitted to elapse for the stage of transition, during which the adjustment of the income to the wants of the family must occur; but I think the good fortune of my district is, that we have a large amount of capital and of intelligence among the yeomen of the district.

4582. Do not you think, that if the parishes of every union were provided for the purposes of settlement and rating, the interest of each, in keeping the labourers out of the workhouse, would be so far diluted that you could not compel them to increase the incomes of the labourers?—It is quite obvious, that before that could occur, which is alluded to in the question, there ought to be, from the prolonged influence of the law, a diffusion of the population throughout the country, to all the profitable fields of employment, so as to prevent any local congestions when that diffusion had occurred. I can conceive nothing but advantage to arise from freeing the labourers from the bondage of the law of settlement.

4583. Lord John Russell.] Do you mean altogether?—I believe, ultimately, altogether.

4584. Mr. Scrope.] And you look forward to a time, in fact, when that operation of the workhouse system upon wages will no longer be necessary?—Certainly, because I believe it to be necessary only when large classes of persons have to be educated in the knowledge of their true interests, and when certain districts have to be relieved from the natural consequences of the previously existing system.

4585. Mr. Miles.] You have stated that in one particular district you minutely inquired as to the increase or decrease of the annual earnings of families since the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, and since the workhouse system was in operation; can you give the Committee any distinct evidence; taking, for instance, a man and his wife and four children, what would be their earnings per week through the year?—I have the result of an inquiry which I conducted to a very considerable extent concerning the income of families, first concerning the amount of wages paid for various kinds of work, for which the authorities are given; and, in connexion with that, an account of the income from every variety of employment, both of the head of the family, the wife, and the children, as far as it occurred in the books of the occupier, and as far as he was cognizant of the resources of the family; but I should desire to state, in connexion with this, that I do not think that any such inquiry can be absolutely exhaustive, and that there are a variety of sources of income which elude observation, even by the master who employs the whole of the family, and that in many of those cases I have very little doubt that the masters who made to me the returns, in answer to the circular, have not been able to collect all the sources of income from which the labourer had derived wages; this inquiry extends to 539 labourers' families, and it was obtained by sending questions generally to the vice-chairman of the boards of guardians, who gave them to some of the intelligent farmers of the district who keep accounts of the wages of their labourers, and who gave a series of answers to the tabular form of inquiry, from which a classification of results has been made from those districts; if the Committee desire to have that, I should be glad to put it in.

[*The Witness delivered in the same.—Vide Appendix (G).*]

4586. But, taking the sources of income at which you have been able to arrive, can you now state to the Committee what would be the average earnings of a man and wife and four children, in that particular district?—I think that the answers to those inquiries would enable the Committee to determine what was that average income.

4587. Taking the average of the expense for a man, a woman and four children, in the different workhouses and unions that you have formed through Norfolk and Suffolk, can you state what it would be per week?—It would be 18s., a week, for six individuals, or about 50*l.* a year; and I found, in this inquiry, that of 120 families, whose number of children averaged three and seven-tenths to a family, the annual income was 35*l.* 9*s.* 0*d.*

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4588. So that when that becomes apparent in the parish, of course the farmers must see that it is infinitely more to their advantage to give decent wages to labouring men than, at such a price, to maintain a man and his wife and four children in the workhouse?—The objections which I hear in the boards of guardians to the admission of the families in the workhouse are, not of the injustice to the labourers but to the employers; and I believe the largest amount of compulsion which occurs, is upon the employers and not upon the labourers.

4589. Mr. *Scrope*.] Then, practically, there is in that district no indisposition on the part of the labourers to resort to the workhouses?—There is this indisposition, that a workhouse is less desirable than an income from the wages of independent industry, and that a man would prefer employment to going into the workhouse; if it were not so, the workhouse would be altogether inefficacious, and would be a nuisance.

4590. The farmers believe that he would go into the workhouse, or they would not increase his wages with a view to keep him out of it?—They are certain that he would go into the workhouse, rather than incur a certain amount of necessity.

4591. *Chairman*.] You said that the rule prohibiting relief to the able-bodied is in general operation in your district?—Certainly; the boards of guardians have observed that rule, though no orders have been issued.

4592. That is, not been issued by the Commissioners?—Certainly not.

4593. You have stated that the result of your experience, and of chairmen of the boards of guardians, is, that the effect of observing that rule has been advantageous to the labourers?—Certainly.

4594. Have you ever made any inquiry as to the state of crime in that district since the change in the law?—I very recently applied to the governors of the gaols of Norfolk and Suffolk, in consequence of rumours which I perceived in certain of the public prints, that crime was increased in consequence of the administration under the Poor Law Amendment Act; and I procured from the governors of the gaols in Norfolk and Suffolk, a return of the persons who had been committed and convicted for felonies since the year 1830, and the number of persons who had been committed and convicted of misdemeanors since that period. I find the number of persons committed for misdemeanors has increased, from the year 1830, from 1,792 persons committed for misdemeanors and 1,727 persons convicted for misdemeanors, to the year 1834, when the number was 2,385 persons committed for misdemeanors and 2,339 convicted for misdemeanors; and that from the year 1834 to October 1837, it had diminished to 1,431 persons committed for misdemeanors and 1,418 convicted for misdemeanors, being a diminution of 900 persons out of 2,300.

4595. Are they periods of the same duration?—They are annual periods.

4596. Lord *John Russell*.] Can you state in each year the number?—In the year 1830 the returns are not so perfect as to enable me to add them up; in the year 1831 the number of persons committed for felonies was 1,026, the number of persons convicted for felonies was 676; the number of persons committed for misdemeanors was 1,792, the number of persons convicted 1,727. In 1832 the number of persons committed for felonies was 954, the number of persons convicted 685; the number of persons committed for misdemeanors was 1,948, the number of persons convicted was 1,904. In the year 1833, the number of persons committed for felonies was 912, the number of persons convicted was 609; the number of persons committed for misdemeanors was 2,101, the number of persons convicted 2,037. In 1834, the number of persons committed for felonies was 959, the number of persons convicted was 658; the number of persons committed for misdemeanors was 2,385, the number of persons convicted for misdemeanors was 2,339. In 1835, the number of persons committed for felonies was 877, the number of persons convicted for felonies was 609; the number of persons committed for misdemeanors was 2,159; the number of persons convicted of misdemeanors was 2,106. In 1836, the number of persons committed for felonies was 1,007, and the number of persons convicted for felonies 697; the number of persons committed for misdemeanors 1,869, the number of persons convicted for misdemeanors 1,839. In 1837, the number of persons committed for felonies 915, the number of persons convicted for felonies 634; the number of persons committed for misdemeanors 1,431, the number of persons convicted for misdemeanors 1418.

[*The Witness delivered in the Paper.—Vide Appendix (H.)*]

4597. Mr.

4597. Mr. *Miles*.] So that, by that return, though the misdemeanors have decreased, your felonies remain the same?—The felonies have not diminished much, but they have diminished.

4598. Mr. *Scrope*.] Have you looked back into former years, in order to ascertain whether there was a continued increase of crime up to the year 1834, looking back to the last 40 or 50 years?—I have not done that; though I have no doubt that, by applying to the governors, it would be possible to obtain that information; information from other sources is, I find, not to be obtained in such a form as to furnish the grounds of comparison; and there is no accurate information to be obtained for a series of years, except from governors of the gaols.

4599. Are you aware that tables have been made out from the Parliamentary returns, proving that there has been a most frightful increase of crime in the last 40 years throughout the kingdom?—I am aware that such returns have been made; but I do not know the basis upon which they rest; though I do not doubt that an increase of crime has occurred, I doubt the correctness of the sources of information, because I have attempted to get the information from similar sources of information, and have failed.

4600. *Chairman*.] What diet have you generally in the workhouses of your district?—There is no uniform dietary in the workhouses of Norfolk and Suffolk; if the boards of guardians desire to take any one of the Commissioners' dietaries, they adopt that; and if they desire any change in the dietary, consistent with the principles upon which the Commissioners proceed, that has been always conceded to them, excepting that it has not been considered desirable to permit that spirituous or fermented liquors should be given, except by direction of the medical officer.

4601. Have the boards taken any of those dietaries which have been recommended by the Commissioners?—Yes.

4602. Making modifications in them, according to the custom and habits of the country?—Yes.

4603. Which modifications have been consented to by the Commissioners?—Invariably, upon a recommendation by the board of guardians.

4604. What have you observed to be the health of the inmates living upon the dietaries?—I have applied myself to obtain information upon that subject, which is a very difficult subject to investigate, and I have some tables relating to the mortality in the workhouses, which it might be interesting for the Committee to be in possession of. It is quite evident that the mortality in the workhouses must necessarily be high, because a large number of the individuals who are admitted into workhouses are either aged or infirm, or are sick, at the period of their admission, or are persons whose indigence is the consequence of improvidence, and probably of vice, or they are infants who have been exposed by dissolute mothers to the inclemency of the season, or have been improperly nursed, and who are brought into the houses either in a state of great debility or in a state of actual suffering from disease. Now I have here some tables, giving a great variety of particulars concerning the mortality in the workhouses of Norfolk and Suffolk, which show that the mortality principally occurs above the age of 60, and under the age of 10, and in proportions and under circumstances which obviously indicate that the sources of mortality are such as I have described. The tables are, perhaps, too elaborate to be the subject of any verbal statement, and therefore I should desire to put them in for the information of the Committee.

[*The Witness delivered in the same.*—*Vide* Appendix (I).]

4605. Taking from those tables, or from any other information, the able-bodied inmates of the workhouse, or those who from age or from previous habits of life are liable to disease, more than the generality of persons, do you observe that the mortality in the houses is such as to give you any reason to suspect either the quality or quantity of the diet are improper?—I am quite satisfied that the workhouses in Norfolk and Suffolk are most healthy establishments, taking into account all the circumstances affecting them of that kind.

4606. Mr. *Baines*.] Have you any comparison of the old workhouses and the new, or do your tables apply only to workhouses under the new system?—I have no means of acquiring information concerning the old workhouses, at least not information of that character which would enable me to form a comparison between the old and new workhouses; the books of the incorporation were not kept in such a way as to enable me to form the slightest comparison between the results obtained from the new unions and those from the old incorporations.

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4607. Do you know any sources from which that information could be derived?—I think not.

4608. *Chairman.*] You are in the habit of going to those workhouses very frequently?—Very frequently.

4609. Independently of those returns which indicate the deaths, is there any thing in the general appearance of the inmates which leads you to suppose that they are unhealthy?—On the contrary, the children are all in blooming health; and it is subject of constant remark in the boards of guardians, what a different appearance there is in the complexion and state of the children who are admitted and those who have been in for any period; the aged paupers are, putting out of account the infirmities incident to their age, and those which they brought with them into the workhouse, in my experience, all in a good state of health.

4610. There is nothing, then, in the circumstances of the workhouse, as far as they have come under your observation, which leads you to believe that the diet is unwholesome?—On the contrary, that it is such as leads to the support of health.

4611. That being generally a diet recommended by the Commissioners, with modifications according to the previous habits of the country, assented to by the paupers?—Certainly.

4612. Mr. *Estcourt.*] For the most part, is that dietary the lowest of those found in the Commissioners' Report?—There is every kind of variety in the district, and my memory does not serve me to state which of the particular dietaries most prevail.

4613. Mr. *Baines.*] Do you know any thing of the dietary in the Manchester workhouse?—I do not.

4614. Mr. *Bolling.*] Has this alteration of the dietaries been one that has been more substantial than the former ones?—The alterations have not been such as to increase materially the amount of the dietary.

4615. Nor the amount of expense?—No, it is a change of quality rather than of quantity.

4616. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have spoken of three alternatives, one of which was the removal of the poor to other places; have you been in the habit of recommending migration from Norfolk and Suffolk to the manufacturing districts?—Certainly.

4617. In the Appendix to the First Report of the Commissioners, I find that you have given a table, which states the "Quantity of steam power, either recently erected, but not supplied with hands, or which is ordered and will be in operation in a year and a half or two years, in the cotton district of Lancashire and its immediate vicinity;" then follow the names of the townships or parishes which form the centre of the district so called, the number of firms, and the number of horse power; and, at the foot of the table, there is this, "A further statement, comprising every engine, its power, the name of the firm to which it either has been or will be supplied, the situation of the mill, the manufacturing process in which this moving force is to be employed, and the authority (generally a civil engineer, resident in the cotton district,) whence this information was derived, were all furnished to the Commissioners; this information was, however, for obvious reasons, confidentially communicated, and cannot, therefore, be published in this Report; I may, however, add, that this power is almost entirely intended for spinning, or for spinning and weaving;" can you furnish the Committee with that information?—I can furnish the Committee with the documents which I submitted to the Commissioners, if they consider that no injury would arise to the public service; but before doing so, I should desire to state this, that though I have perfect confidence in the whole results being correct, I do not consider that the way in which the information was necessarily derived by me, in the short period in which it was obtained, would make each particular statement, as to each individual mill, positively accurate as to the amount of horse power; with that proviso, I think, the whole statement would be found to be accurate; in some cases the statement would exceed, in other cases it would be under, because the information was obtained from inquiries of the manufacturers of the district, who stated what their belief was as to the amount of horse power which was about to be provided by some one or other of their neighbours, or of some civil engineer, who told me not merely what was occurring in his own engagements, but in the neighbourhood where he was engaged.

4618. Whether correct or incorrect, you can furnish that return?—I can.

William

William Richard Dickins, called in; and Examined.

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4619. Mr. *Wakley*.] YOU are the person from whom I presented a petition the other day, stating that you had a daughter who was afflicted with idiocy?—I am.

4620. Where do you reside?—No. 30, Charles-street, Hoxton.

4621. What is your occupation?—A paper-hanger.

4622. *Chairman*.] What was the nature of your petition?—That I applied to the parish to receive her, in consequence of her being motherless, and that I am unable to support her, and I ought to keep a person to administer to her wants; the parish have refused her being admitted, in consequence of her being afflicted.

4623. What is the parish?—St. Leonard's, Shoreditch.

4624. Is that in union?—I am not aware.

4625. To whom did you apply?—The board at the workhouse.

4626. To whom?—To the committee, the vestry-clerk and so forth, where they were sitting in the workhouse; I applied first to the vestry-clerk, and he referred me to the committee, on a certain day, which is called the board of guardians.

4627. Where is the committee sitting to whom you applied?—In the workhouse in Kingsland-road.

4628. (To Mr. *Chadwick*.) Is that parish in union under the Commissioners' orders?—No, it was placed under the Poor Law Commissioners, but that order is revoked.

4629. And it now administers relief, not under the order of the Poor Law Commissioners?—Yes.

APPENDIX.

Appendix (A).—RETURN respecting the CHILDREN Maintained and Educated in the WORKHOUSES in *Norfolk and Suffolk*, in the Week ending 9th of December 1837.

	Aylsham.	Blofield.	Depwade.	Docking.	Downham.	Erpingham.	St. Faith's.	Fleets.	Forehoe.	Freebridge Lynn.	Gullicross.	Hensstead.	King's Lynn.	Loddon & Clavering.	Mitford & Launditch.	Swaffham.	Theford.	Tunstead & Happing.	Walsingham.	Wayland.	Bythng.	Rosmere & Claydon.	Costof.	Hartismere.	Hoxne.	Ipswich.	Mildenhall.	Plomesgate.	Risbridge.	Samford.	Slow.	Sudbury.	Thingoe.	Wangford.	Woodbridge.	Totals.	
{ boys girls	9	11	18	3	-	3	3	4	7	4	10	8	6	10	11	11	4	3	-	11	18	11	9	11	21	8	5	11	10	9	13	5	4	8	10	289	
	7	3	11	2	-	8	6	2	8	5	11	4	12	4	21	10	6	5	-	7	14	9	8	6	15	12	-	8	5	8	14	8	3	4	8	254	
{ boys girls	2	1	13	1	-	1	2	-	5	2	5	3	4	12	11	1	1	2	-	6	5	37	4	8	10	12	1	4	4	5	5	14	13	2	18	214	
	3	3	5	3	-	4	1	-	8	-	10	5	7	2	13	1	4	3	-	8	2	26	5	8	5	3	-	1	2	6	3	4	5	-	18	382	
{ boys girls	3	1	10	-	-	4	4	1	6	3	9	-	7	-	14	1	-	9	-	1	9	1	-	8	1	9	3	2	6	3	2	3	6	5	6	5	131
	7	-	12	2	-	7	3	2	1	5	9	-	4	2	20	1	-	15	-	7	9	-	3	-	2	14	2	-	5	4	-	1	6	5	148		
{ boys girls	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	4	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	5	4	3	3	5	-	2	-	33	
	-	-	4	2	-	-	4	-	3	1	4	-	2	-	3	-	-	4	-	6	9	5	4	2	1	-	1	4	7	4	4	8	4	-	9	86	
{ boys girls	8	2	2	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	2	2	2	-	3	-	-	2	4	-	6	6	1	-	6	6	1	2	-	2	-	-	61	
	5	1	1	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	8	4	2	2	-	2	-	-	1	3	-	3	8	-	-	2	3	1	1	-	1	-	-	55	
{ boys girls	-	3	12	1	-	4	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	4	11	5	1	1	-	-	2	1	-	4	-	-	-	3	12	2	7	2	2	1	78		
	-	3	8	2	-	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	6	5	2	-	2	-	2	1	1	2	-	4	-	-	2	4	7	4	2	-	1	66		
{ boys girls	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	2	-	-	-	18	
	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	3	6	-	-	-	-	18		
{ boys girls	1	5	1	1	-	-	3	1	2	-	7	3	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	-	7	1	3	3	-	-	2	-	11	-	3	1	-	-	60	
	2	16	-	1	-	5	2	-	-	-	6	5	-	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	10	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	4	-	1	2	-	62		
																																				1847	

Appendix (E. 1.)—NUMBER OF DEPOSITORS, and AMOUNT DEPOSITED in the SAVINGS BANKS of the County of Norfolk, during each of the Six Years ending 20th November 1836.

CLASSES OF DEPOSITORS.	On the 20th November 1831.			On the 20th November 1832.			On the 20th November 1833.			On the 20th November 1834.			On the 20th November 1835.			On the 20th November 1836.		
	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits, £.		Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits, £.		Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits, £.		Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits, £.		Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits, £.		Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits, £.	
Not exceeding - - £. 20 - -	3,405	24,881		3,646	27,017		4,023	29,795		4,518	32,033		4,770	34,007		5,387	38,384	
Not exceeding - - £. 50 - -	1,874	57,716		1,997	61,790		2,216	67,921		2,331	72,822		2,501	77,771		2,711	84,070	
Not exceeding - - £. 100 - -	826	56,020		855	58,376		935	63,263		1,055	71,589		1,120	76,709		1,225	83,590	
Not exceeding - - £. 150 - -	285	34,020		288	34,161		327	39,016		319	38,510		344	41,680		393	47,070	
Not exceeding - - £. 200 - -	125	21,822		152	26,630		156	27,372		179	30,899		199	34,383		214	37,287	
Exceeding - - £. 200 - -	24	5,414		21	4,835		26	5,898		21	4,570		19	4,015		17	3,598	
Charitable Societies - -	28	1,244		39	1,591		73	2,452		72	2,559		86	3,323		108	4,267	
Friendly Societies - -	74	6,947		70	6,918		68	6,628		91	7,475		87	7,139		99	8,267	

Appendix (E. 2.)—NUMBER OF DEPOSITORS, and AMOUNT DEPOSITED in the SAVINGS BANKS of the County of Suffolk, during each of the Six Years ending 20th November 1836.

CLASSES OF DEPOSITORS.	On the 20th November 1831.			On the 20th November 1832.			On the 20th November 1833.			On the 20th November 1834.			On the 20th November 1835.			On the 20th November 1836.		
	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits, £.		Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits, £.		Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits, £.		Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits, £.		Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits, £.		Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits, £.	
Not exceeding - - £. 20 - -	2,831	21,246		2,912	22,022		3,045	22,975		3,115	23,321		3,268	24,484		3,559	25,613	
Not exceeding - - £. 50 - -	1,527	47,936		1,502	46,905		1,591	49,044		1,604	51,815		1,704	53,091		1,819	56,758	
Not exceeding - - £. 100 - -	703	47,549		695	47,577		716	48,984		709	53,868		805	55,430		846	57,355	
Not exceeding - - £. 150 - -	242	20,089		235	28,181		260	31,142		256	30,841		276	33,072		294	35,414	
Not exceeding - - £. 200 - -	108	18,111		114	19,140		111	18,759		121	20,412		127	21,357		131	22,201	
Exceeding - - £. 200 - -	47	11,236		38	9,297		31	7,687		29	7,354		27	6,818		26	6,453	
Charitable Societies - -	42	2,464		56	2,707		75	3,308		86	4,605		101	4,491		124	5,046	
Friendly Societies - -	110	14,293		91	12,346		95	13,364		97	12,078		108	12,212		108	12,662	

Appendix (F.)—STATEMENT showing the Number of Attendances of the Guardians of the WANGFORD UNION, at each of the Weekly and Quarterly Meetings, from Michaelmas 1835 to Michaelmas 1836.

	First Quarter, Michaelmas to Christmas.		Second Quarter, Christmas to Lady-day.		Third Quarter, Lady-day to Midsummer.		Fourth Quarter, Midsummer to Michaelmas.		Average of the Year.
	No. of Guardians present.		No. of Guardians present.		No. of Guardians present.		No. of Guardians present.		
1st Weekly Meeting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2d - ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
3d - ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
4th - ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
5th - ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
6th - ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
7th - ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
8th - ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
9th - ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10th - ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
11th - ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
12th - ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
13th - ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Aggregate	257		249		289		219		
Weekly Average	19 ¹⁰ / ₁₃		19 ² / ₁₃		22 ³ / ₁₃		16 ¹¹ / ₁₃		19 ¹ / ₁₃
Quarterly Meetings	27		20		20		11		19 ¹ / ₁₃

Appendix (G.) continued.—TABLE of Rate of Wages, and Classified Results of Inquiry concerning Annual Income of Husbandmen—continued.

	Rev. T. ANDERSON.				F. W. ELLIS, Esq.				JOHN KIRBY MOORE, Esq.				CHARLES ETHERIDGE, Esq.			
	STOW.				BLYTHING.				BOSMERE and CLAYDON.				DEPWADE.			
	If not Piece-work, at what Weekly Wages?	If Piece-work, at how much per Rod, per Acre, per Comb, &c.?	And if Piece-work, how much can be earned per Week?	If not Piece-work, at what Weekly Wages?	If Piece-work, at how much per Rod, per Acre, per Comb, &c.?	And if Piece-work, how much can be earned per Week?	If not Piece-work, at what Weekly Wages?	If Piece-work, at how much per Rod, per Acre, per Comb, &c.?	And if Piece-work, how much can be earned per Week?	If not Piece-work, at what Weekly Wages?	If Piece-work, at how much per Rod, per Acre, per Comb, &c.?	And if Piece-work, how much can be earned per Week?	If not Piece-work, at what Weekly Wages?	If Piece-work, at how much per Rod, per Acre, per Comb, &c.?	And if Piece-work, how much can be earned per Week?	If not Piece-work, at what Weekly Wages?
Ploughing -	s. d. 9 -	s. d. 1 3 to 1 6 coo.	s. d. 9 - to 10 -	s. d. 10 -	s. d. 1 3 per coomb -	s. d. 12 - to 15 -	s. d. 9 -	s. d. 1 2 to 1 4 coo.	s. d. 10 - to 12 -	s. d. 8 - to 12 -	s. d. 1 3 to 1 4 coo.	s. d. 10 6 to 12 -	s. d. 8 - to 12 -	s. d. 1 3 to 1 4 coo.	s. d. 10 6 to 12 -	s. d. 8 - to 12 -
Threshing Wheat -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" Barley -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" Oats -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" Beans -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" Peas -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land-draining (per rod) -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hedging and ditching -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Team-driving -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dibbling -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Broadcast-sowing -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Men working with a drill -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Threshing machine -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mowing -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Haymaking -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reaping Wheat -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" Barley -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" Beans -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" Peas -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harvest-work -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hauling -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gardening -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shepherds' wages -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fat-yard Man -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sheep-shears or Clippers -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turnip-topping -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turnip-hoeing -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mangel-Wurzel gathering -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wheat-hoeing -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood-cutters -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WOMEN:																
Charing -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nursing -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stone-picking -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gleaning -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Haymaking -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dropping -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gavelling -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHILDREN:																
Crow-keeping -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cattle-tending -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dropping -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stone-gathering -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Help in thrashing -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farm-yard work -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Straw-plaiting -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stay-making -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(continued.)

Appendix (G.) continued.—Table of Rate of Wages and Classified Results of Inquiry concerning Annual Income of Husbandmen—continued.

	H. E. BLYTH, Esq.				Mr. J. Postle.				HENRY CASE, Esq.				JAMES FISCH, Esq.			
	DOCKING.				TUNSTEAD and HAPPING.				HARTSMERE.				THETFORD.			
	If not Piece-work, at what Weekly Wages?	If Piece-work, at how much per Rod, per Acre, per Comb, &c.?	And if Piece-work, how much can be earned per Week?	s. d.	If not Piece-work, at what Weekly Wages?	If Piece-work, at how much per Rod, per Acre, per Comb, &c.?	And if Piece-work, how much can be earned per Week?	s. d.	If not Piece-work, at what Weekly Wages?	If Piece-work, at how much per Rod, per Acre, per Comb, &c.?	And if Piece-work, how much can be earned per Week?	s. d.	If not Piece-work, at what Weekly Wages?	If Piece-work, at how much per Rod, per Acre, per Comb, &c.?	And if Piece-work, how much can be earned per Week?	s. d.
Ploughing	-	-	7 6 to 10 -	-	-	-	11 - to 12 -	-	-	-	12 -	-	-	-	1 3 to 1 6 coo.	-
Threshing Wheat	-	-	12 - to 15 -	-	-	1 2 to 1 4 coo.	10 - to 11 -	-	-	-	12 - to 13 -	-	-	-	8 to - 9 "	-
" Barley	-	-	14 - to 15 -	-	-	10 to 1 - "	11 -	-	-	-	12 - to 13 -	-	-	-	6 to - 7 "	-
" Oats	-	-	14 - to 15 -	-	-	7 to - 8 "	-	-	-	-	12 - to 13 -	-	-	-	6 -	-
" Beans	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12 - to 13 -	-	-	-	6 -	-
" Peas	-	-	14 - to 15 -	-	-	9 to 1 - "	10 - to 12 -	-	-	-	13 -	-	-	-	3 - to 4 6	-
Land-draining (per rod)	-	-	-	-	-	3 to - 4 rod	10 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hedging and Ditching	-	-	12 - to 14 -	-	-	1 - to 1 6 "	12 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Team-driving	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dibbling	6 6 to 11 6	-	-	-	10 - to 11 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Broadcast-sowing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Men working with a Drill	-	-	-	-	-	7 - per acre	12 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Threshing-machine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mowing	-	-	18 - to 20 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hay-making	-	-	15 - to 20 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reaping Wheat	-	-	18 - to 20 -	-	-	2 - per acre	18 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" Barley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" Beans	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" Peas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harvest-work	-	-	18 -	-	-	9 - to 12 - "	18 - to 21 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hauling	-	-	-	-	-	2 - to 2 6 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gardening	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shepherds' Wages	-	-	-	-	-	3 - to 3 6 "	21 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farm-yard Man	-	-	-	-	-	£. 5 5, for harvest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sheep-shears or Clippers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turnip-topping	-	-	21 -	-	-	4 - per score	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turnip-feeding	-	-	10 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mangel-Wurzel gathering	-	-	15 -	-	-	6 - to 8 - acre	15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wheat-feeding	-	-	12 -	-	-	3 6 "	9 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood-cutters	-	-	10 - to 12 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12 - with firing,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WOMEN :																
Charing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nursing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stone-picking	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gleaning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hay-making	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dropping	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gavelling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHILDREN :																
Crow-keeping	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cattle-tending	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dropping	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stone-gathering	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Help in Threshing,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farm-yard work	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Straw-plaiting.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stay-making.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(continued.)

Appendix (G.)—*continued.*

In proceeding to the inquiry respecting the annual income procured by agricultural labourers throughout Norfolk and Suffolk, the only means of satisfactorily determining this question appeared to me to consist in obtaining from as many farmers as possible an account of the income of the labourers in their own employment. This could not be accomplished with the necessary accuracy amongst the least skilful and intelligent farmers, because this class keep no accounts, and are not accustomed to that minute accuracy in details necessary to render the results valuable. I was therefore constrained to content myself with seeking the information which I desired to collect from a class of farmers which I knew to possess the requisite qualifications for making accurate replies.

The returns are, therefore, to be accumulated evidence of the average income of labourers employed by farmers of capital, and of more than an average degree of skill, scattered over the whole surface of Norfolk and Suffolk.

In order to procure these returns, I issued a circular with the following questions; and I received 54 replies, prepared with great precision and care. In the replies to the circular, the circumstances of each labourer's family were separately enumerated, his name in each case being given.

Name?
 Age?
 Number of children under 10 years of age, residing at home?
 Number of children above 10, residing at home?
 Annual amount of wages for day labour?
 Annual amount of wages for task-work?
 Harvest wages?
 Annual amount of earnings of wife?
 Annual amount of earnings of children?
 Value of corn gleaned?
 Rent of house?
 Has he a garden or allotment, and, if so, of what size?
 Is he allowed to cut fuel free of charge?
 Has he any common right?
 Does he keep a pig or a donkey; if so, has he any, and what, privileges, to enable him to feed his pig or donkey?
 Does he possess any other source of income, and if so, what is its annual value?

The answers to these circulars furnished me with an account of 539 labourers' families, with sufficient accuracy to enable me to classify the results so as, first, to exhibit the average annual income of each class; and, secondly, to divide that annual income into its elements, in all cases in which the returns are so accurate as to separate day wages, the earnings from task-work, harvest wages, the earnings of the wife, and the earnings of the children from each other, respectively.

1st CLASS.—Among the 539 labourers thus enumerated, were 36 single men, whose average annual income amounted to 25*l.* 1*s.* 4½*d.*

In 26 of these cases the earnings obtained by day-work were specified, the average annual amount being 18*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*
 In five of these cases the earnings obtained by task-work were specified, the average annual amount being 14*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*
 In 27 of these cases the harvest wages were specified, the average amount being 4*l.* 19*s.* 4½*d.*

2d CLASS.—In 64 families there were no children, or at least none residing at home; and the average annual income of the family was 30*l.* 12*s.* 10½*d.*

In 58 of these cases the earnings obtained by day-work were specified, the average annual amount being 15*l.* 12*s.* 3½*d.*
 In 43 of these cases the earnings obtained by task-work were specified, the average annual amount being 11*l.* 15*s.*
 In 55 of these cases the harvest wages were specified, the average amount being 5*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*
 In 34 of these cases the earnings of the wife were specified, the average annual amount being 3*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*
 In 46 of these cases the value of corn gleaned was specified, the average amount being 17*s.* 10½*d.*

3d CLASS.—In 166 families the children were all under 10 years of age; the number of children was 475, or 2⅞ to each family, and the average annual income of the family 32*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*

In 143 of these cases the earnings obtained by day-work were specified, the average annual amount being 15*l.* 15*s.* 1½*d.*
 In 96 of these cases the earnings obtained by task-work were specified, the average annual amount being 14*l.* 13*s.* 7½*d.*
 In 157 of these cases the harvest wages were specified, the annual average amount being 5*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*
 In 71 of these cases the earnings of wife were specified, the average annual amount being 2*l.* 9*s.* 0½*d.*
 In 25 of these cases the earnings of the children were specified, the average annual amount being 2*l.* 4*s.*
 In 110 cases the value of corn gleaned was specified, the average amount being 18*s.* 7½*d.*

4th CLASS.—One hundred and twenty families had one child more than 10 years old, and the average annual income amounted to 35*l.* 9*s.* 0¾*d.* The number of children averaged about 3⅞ to a family.

In 108 of these cases the earnings obtained by day-work were specified, the average annual amount being 15*l.* 13*s.* 11½*d.*
 In 90 of these cases the earnings obtained by task-work were specified, the average annual amount being 13*l.* 17*s.* 1¼*d.*
 In 113 of these cases the harvest wages were specified, the average amount being 5*l.* 5*s.* 10¾*d.*
 In 64 cases the earnings of the wife were specified, the average annual amount being 2*l.* 11*s.* 7¾*d.*
 In 76 of these cases the earnings of the children were specified, the average annual amount being 4*l.* 6*s.* 1½*d.*
 In 97 of these cases the value of corn gleaned was specified, the average amount being 1*l.* 0*s.* 6¾*d.*

5th CLASS.—Ninety-two families had two children above ten years of age, with an average annual income of 40*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* The number of children averaged 4⅞ to a family.

In 84 of these cases the earnings obtained by day-work were specified, the average annual amount being 12*l.* 14*s.* 6¼*d.*
 In 75 of these cases the earnings obtained by task-work were specified, the average annual amount being 14*l.* 18*s.*
 In 89 of these cases the harvest wages were specified, the average amount being 5*l.* 11*s.* 2¾*d.*
 In 49 of these cases the earnings of the wife were specified, the average annual amount being 2*l.* 5*s.* 7½*d.*
 In 82 of these cases the earnings of the children were specified, the average annual amount being 8*l.* 17*s.* 4½*d.*
 In 85 of these cases the value of corn gleaned was specified, the average amount being 1*l.* 5*s.* 6½*d.*

6th CLASS.

6th CLASS.—Forty-four families had three children above 10, with an average annual income of 45*l.* 11*s.* 9½*d.* The number of children averaged about 5¾ to a family.

In 40 of these cases the earnings obtained by day-work were specified, the average annual amount being 13*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*
In 31 of these cases the earnings obtained by task-work were specified, the average annual amount being 17*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*
In 43 of these cases the harvest wages were specified, the average amount being 5*l.* 11*s.* 4¾*d.*
In 20 of these cases the earnings of the wife were specified, the average annual amount being 2*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.*
In 41 of these cases the earnings of the children were specified, the average annual amount being 12*l.* 17*s.*
In 37 of these cases the value of corn gleaned was specified, the average amount being 1*l.* 9*s.* 6¾*d.*

7th CLASS.—Fifteen families had four children above 10, with an average annual income of 50*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* The number of children averaged about seven to a family.

In 14 of these cases the earnings obtained by day-work were specified, the average annual amount being 20*l.* 2*s.* 6½*d.*
In nine of these cases the earnings obtained by task-work were specified, the average annual amount being 12*l.* 13*s.* 0½*d.*
In all these cases the harvest wages were specified, the average annual amount being 5*l.* 9*s.* 0½*d.*
In three of these cases the earnings of the wife were specified, the average annual amount being 2*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*
In 13 of these cases the earnings of the children were specified, the average annual amount being 20*l.* 3*s.* 8½*d.*
In 13 of these cases the value of corn gleaned was specified, the average amount being 1*l.* 6*s.* 9½*d.*

8th CLASS.—One family had five children above 10 years old, with an annual income of 42*l.* 13*s.*, composed of the following elements:—

																	£.	s.	d.
Earnings obtained by	Day-Work	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	6	-
"	Task-Work	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	6	-
"	Harvest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	-
"	Children	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	6	-
Value of Corn gleaned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	-
																	£.42 13 -		

9th CLASS.—One family had six children above 10, with an annual income of 52*l.*, composed of the following elements:—

Earnings obtained by	Day-Work	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£.	28	
"	Harvest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		6	
"	Children	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		18	
																	£.52		

In 449 cases the rents were stated, and they amounted to 1,602*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, being on the average 3*l.* 11*s.* 4½*d.*
Among the 539 cases thus enumerated, 397 families had gardens, in 277 of which instances the size of the gardens was stated; the aggregate amount was 5,463 rods, averaging 19½ rods. Of 64 allotments enumerated, the average size is 52½ rods.
One hundred and thirty-six of these families had some fuel free of charge; 259 had a pig; 20 a donkey.

Appendix (H.)—RETURNS from the MASTERS of COUNTY GAOLS and BRIDEWELLS in Norfolk and Suffolk.

NAME of PRISON.	1830.				1831.				1832.				1833.			
	Felonies.		Misdemeanors.		Felonies.		Misdemeanors.		Felonies.		Misdemeanors.		Felonies.		Misdemeanors.	
	Committed.	Convicted.	Committed.	Convicted.	Committed.	Convicted.	Committed.	Convicted.	Committed.	Convicted.	Committed.	Convicted.	Committed.	Convicted.	Committed.	Convicted.
Norwich - - -	194	141	319	301	{253 164	241	319	293	326	212	352	332	297	167	384	373
Swaffham - - -	78	55	189	174	131	96	174	161	82	60	168	160	82	50	259	242
Walsingham - -	77	45	187	186	131	81	383	368	113	68	330	316	105	65	270	265
Wymondham - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	17	37	37	20	15	66	66
Beccles - - -	33	27	100	-	29	19	109	109	46	40	108	108	44	35	98	98
Bury St. Edmunds -	-	-	-	-	178	131	452	446	200	169	549	548	202	150	634	626
Ipswich - - -	137	76	297	295	102	76	265	260	129	88	306	305	118	89	286	283
Woodbridge - - -	20	18	-	89	38	32	90	90	35	31	98	98	44	38	84	84
TOTALS - -					1,026	676	1,792	1,727	954	685	1,948	1,904	912	609	2,101	2,037

NAME of PRISON.	1834.				1835.				1836.				1837.			
	Felonies.		Misdemeanors.		Felonies.		Misdemeanors.		Felonies.		Misdemeanors.		Felonies.		Misdemeanors.	
	Committed.	Convicted.	Committed.	Convicted.	Committed.	Convicted.	Committed.	Convicted.	Committed.	Convicted.	Committed.	Convicted.	Committed.	Convicted.	Committed.	Convicted.
Norwich - - -	340	221	414	407	281	204	426	421	268	182	359	357	222	150	286	283
Swaffham - - -	106	67	240	225	93	58	240	228	110	76	177	168	135	84	153	150
Walsingham - -	134	87	329	318	103	60	321	297	157	82	269	260	115	70	202	200
Wymondham - -	21	11	58	58	31	23	58	58	22	17	46	46	46	29	50	50
Beccles - - -	60	54	122	122	28	23	108	108	48	36	106	106	42	32	57	57
Bury St. Edmunds -	146	111	746	736	192	132	535	528	217	157	497	495	205	166	396	392
Ipswich - - -	115	73	377	374	106	73	384	379	116	80	332	324	102	67	211	210
Woodbridge - - -	37	34	99	99	43	36	87	87	69	67	83	83	48	36	76	76
TOTALS - -	959	658	2,385	2,339	877	609	2,159	2,106	1,007	697	1,869	1,839	915	634	1,431	1,418

FOURTEENTH REPORT
FROM
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON THE
POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT,
WITH THE
MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,
AND APPENDIX.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
14 March 1838.*

[*Price 6d.*]

4th Board on Dec 1st 1871

